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The Code of Federal Regulations is sold by the Superintendent of Documents.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2025–0348; Project Identifier AD–2024–00626–T; Amendment 39–23288; AD 2026–05–15]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain The Boeing Company Model 777–200LR and –300ER series airplanes. This AD was prompted by reports of chafing and arcing damage on the light emitting diode (LED) sidewall wire bundles. This AD requires a general visual inspection (GVI) of the sidewall light for chafing damage and applicable on-condition actions. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective April 20, 2026.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of April 20, 2026.

ADDRESSES:

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2025–0348; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

• For Boeing material identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminster Blvd., MC 110–SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740–5600; telephone 562–797–1717; website *myboeingfleet.com*.

• You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206–231–3195. It is also available at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2025–0348.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Raja Vengadasalam, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206–231–3537; email: *raja.vengadasalam@faa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to certain The Boeing Company Model 777–200LR and –300ER series airplanes. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on March 28, 2025 (90 FR 14055). The NPRM was prompted by reports of chafing and arcing damage on the LED sidewall wire bundles. In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require a GVI of the sidewall light for chafing damage and applicable on-condition actions. The FAA is issuing this AD to address chafing damage on the LED sidewall wire bundles. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in maintenance personnel contact with a live high-voltage electrical cable.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received comments from Boeing and ProTech Aero Services Limited (ProTech) who supported the NPRM without change.

The FAA received an additional comment from American Airlines (American). The following presents the comment received on the NPRM and the FAA's response to the comment.

Request for Clarification of Inspection Locations and Revised Illustrations

American requested that the FAA clarify if the intent of figure 1 of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 777–33–0069 RB, dated October 15, 2024 (the Boeing requirements bulletin), is to only inspect for wire chafing damage between the sidewall light and the power connector. American stated that figure 1 of the Boeing requirements bulletin does not show all the inspection locations or highlight that the inspection is limited to the area between the LED sidewall light harness and connector; it also does not show the different light sizes, harness routing, and stowage compartment sizes. American also requested that the FAA require Boeing to revise figures 2 and 3 of the Boeing requirements bulletin to include illustrations of all non-typical installations. Additionally, American stated that figure 2 of the Boeing requirements bulletin illustrates only a typical installation of a clip over the edge of the hole in the stowage compartment and does not account for non-typical wire routing configurations resulting from differences in stowage compartment and light sizes.

The FAA clarifies that the inspection area for chafing damage to the sidewall light power connector wire bundle is illustrated in figure 1 of the Boeing requirements bulletin as the portion of the wire bundle that is marked with diagonal stripes and shaded light blue.

The FAA disagrees with the request to revise figures 2 and 3 of the Boeing requirements bulletin. The FAA reviewed and approved the Boeing requirements bulletin prior to publication of the proposed AD and determined that it provides sufficient instructions and illustrations to correct the unsafe condition. If a specific configuration prevents an operator from accomplishing the actions specified in the Boeing requirements bulletin, the operator may request an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (i) of this AD. No changes have been made to this AD in this regard.

Conclusion

The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered any comments received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products. Except for minor editorial changes, this AD is adopted as proposed

in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

Material Incorporated by Reference Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 777–33–0069 RB, dated October 15, 2024. This material specifies procedures for a GVI of the sidewall lights for wire chafing damage and applicable on-condition actions, including repairing the wire chafing damage, replacing the light, adjusting the wire routing, and installing a new wire clip, ringpost, and clamp. This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects 31 airplanes of U.S. registry. The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

ESTIMATED COSTS

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Inspection	Up to 100 work-hours × $85 per hour = $8,500	$15,390	Up to $23,890	Up to $740,590.

The FAA estimates the following costs to do any necessary actions that would be required based on the results of the inspection. The agency has no way of determining the number of aircraft that might need these actions:

ON-CONDITION COSTS

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product
Repair or replacement, adjusting wire routing, and installing parts ..	1 work-hour × $85 per hour = $85	Up to $7,613 ...	Up to $7,698.

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

(1) Is not a ''significant regulatory action'' under Executive Order 12866,

(2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and

(3) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

■ 2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

2026–05–15 The Boeing Company: Amendment 39–23288; Docket No. FAA–2025–0348; Project Identifier AD–2024–00626–T.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective April 20, 2026.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to The Boeing Company Model 777–200LR and –300ER series airplanes, certificated in any category, as identified in Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 777–33–0069 RB, dated October 15, 2024.

(d) Subject

Air Transport Association (ATA) of America Code 33, Lights.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by reports of chafing and arcing damage on the light emitting diode (LED) sidewall wire bundles. The FAA is issuing this AD to prevent and address chafing damage on the LED sidewall wire bundles. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in maintenance personnel contact with a live high-voltage electrical cable.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Required Actions

Except as specified in paragraph (h) of this AD: At the applicable times specified in the ''Compliance'' paragraph of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 777–33–0069 RB, dated October 15, 2024, do all applicable actions identified in, and in accordance with, the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 777–33–0069 RB, dated October 15, 2024.

Note 1 to paragraph (g): Guidance for accomplishing the actions required by this AD can be found in Boeing Special Attention Service Bulletin 777–33–0069, dated October 15, 2024, which is referred to in Boeing

Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 777–33–0069 RB, dated October 15, 2024.

(h) Exceptions to Requirements Bulletin Specifications

Where the ''Boeing Recommended Compliance Time'' column in the table under the ''Compliance'' paragraph of Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 777–33–0069 RB, dated October 15, 2024, refers to ''the Original Issue date of Requirements Bulletin 777–33–0069 RB,'' this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, AIR–520, Continued Operational Safety Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or responsible Flight Standards Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the Continued Operational Safety Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (j)(1) of this AD. Information may be emailed to: *AMOC@faa.gov.* Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the responsible Flight Standards Office.

(2) An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair, modification, or alteration required by this AD if it is approved by The Boeing Company Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) that has been authorized by the Manager, AIR–520, Continued Operational Safety Branch, FAA, to make those findings. To be approved, the repair method, modification deviation, or alteration deviation must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

(j) Additional Information

(1) For more information about this AD, contact Raja Vengadasalam, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: 206–231–3537; email: *raja.vengadasalam@faa.gov*.

(2) Material identified in this AD that is not incorporated by reference is available at the address specified in paragraph (k)(3) this AD.

(k) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the material listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this material as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) Boeing Special Attention Requirements Bulletin 777–33–0069 RB, dated October 15, 2024.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For the Boeing material identified in this AD, contact Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Attention: Contractual & Data Services (C&DS), 2600 Westminster Blvd., MC 110–SK57, Seal Beach, CA 90740–5600; telephone 562–797–1717; website *myboeingfleet.com*.

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Airworthiness Products Section, Operational Safety Branch, 2200 South 216th St., Des Moines, WA. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call 206–231–3195.

(5) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit *www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations* or email *fr.inspection@nara.gov*.

Issued on March 9, 2026.

Lona C. Saccomando,

Acting Deputy Director, Integrated Certificate Management Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05117 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2025–5033; Project Identifier MCAI–2025–00795–R; Amendment 39–23286; AD 2026–05–13]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Airbus Helicopters Model H160–B helicopters. This AD was prompted by a report of a tail rotor drive rear shaft that came into contact with its rear damper during a flight test. This AD requires repetitive visual inspections of the rear damper and, depending on the results, corrective actions. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective April 20, 2026.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of April 20, 2026.

ADDRESSES:

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2025–5033; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The address for Docket Operations is U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) material identified in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: *ADs@easa.europa.eu;* website: *easa.europa.eu.* You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at *ad.easa.europa.eu.*
- You may view this material at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110. It is also available at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2025–5033.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adam Hein, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (316) 946–4116; email: *adam.hein@faa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would apply to all Airbus Helicopters Model H160–B helicopters. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on November 28, 2025 (90 FR 54591). The NPRM was prompted by EASA AD 2025–0098, dated April 29, 2025 (EASA AD 2025–0098) (also referred to as the MCAI), issued by EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union. The MCAI advises of a report that the tail rotor drive rear shaft of the tail drive line had come in contact with its rear damper during a flight test. This contact is expected only when the helicopter is on the ground, during transition phases of either accelerating (ramp up) or decelerating (ramp-down), when passing the shaft critical mode.

In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require repetitive visual inspections of the rear damper and, depending on the results, corrective actions. The FAA is issuing this AD to detect and correct the tail rotor drive rear shaft contacting the rear damper during flight, which if not corrected, could result in degradation of the rear damper and its support, loss of the rear damper function, failure of the tail rotor drive rear shaft, and consequent loss of yaw control of the helicopter.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2025–5033.

Discussion of Final Airworthiness Directive

Comments

The FAA received no comments on the NPRM or on the determination of the costs.

Conclusion

These products have been approved by the civil aviation authority of another country and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, that authority has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA reviewed the relevant data, considered any comments received, and determined that air safety requires adopting this AD as proposed. Accordingly, the FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products. Except for minor editorial changes, this AD is adopted as proposed in the NPRM. None of the changes will increase the economic burden on any operator.

Material Incorporated by Reference Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed EASA AD 2025–0098, which specifies procedures for repetitive visual inspections of the two radii in the top area of the rear damper, the hard chrome oxide deposit on the friction bush located under the rear damper, and the rear damper supports for cracks and loose or missing fasteners and, depending on the results, performing further inspections, replacing the rear damper, or contacting the manufacturer for further corrective actions. This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI

Where the MCAI specifies contacting Airbus Helicopters for repair instructions, this AD requires using a method approved by the FAA, EASA, or Airbus Helicopters' EASA Design Organization Approval.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD affects nine helicopters of U.S. registry.

The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this AD:

ESTIMATED COSTS

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Visual inspection of rear damper	1 work-hour × $85 per hour = $85	$0	$85	$765

The FAA estimates the following costs to do any replacements that would be required based on the results of the inspection. The agency has no way of determining the number of helicopters that might need these replacements:

ON-CONDITION COSTS

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product
Replace rear damper	8 work-hours × $85 per hour = $680	$22,647	$23,327

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

(1) Is not a ''significant regulatory action'' under Executive Order 12866,

(2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska and

(3) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

■ 2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

2026–05–13 Airbus Helicopters: Amendment 39–23286; Docket No. FAA–2025–5033; Project Identifier MCAI–2025–00795–R.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective April 20, 2026.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to Airbus Helicopters Model H160–B helicopters, certificated in any category.

(d) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code 6510, Tail Rotor Drive Shaft.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by a report of a tail rotor drive rear shaft of the tail drive line coming into contact with its rear damper during a flight test. The FAA is issuing this AD to detect and correct the tail rotor drive rear shaft contacting the rear damper during flight. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in degradation of the rear damper and its support, loss of the rear damper function, failure of the tail rotor drive rear shaft, and consequent loss of yaw control of the helicopter.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Required Actions

Except as specified in paragraph (h) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2025–0098, dated April 29, 2025 (EASA AD 2025–0098).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2025–0098

(1) Where EASA AD 2025–0098 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Where EASA AD 2025–0098 requires compliance in terms of flight hours, this AD requires using hours time-in-service.

(3) Where paragraph (2) of EASA AD 2025–0098 specifies contacting AH (Airbus Helicopters) to obtain approved instructions, this AD requires actions done in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA; or EASA; or Airbus Helicopters' EASA Design Organization Approval (DOA). If approved by the DOA, the approval must include the DOA-authorized signature.

(4) This AD does not adopt the ''Remarks'' section of EASA AD 2025–0098.

(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the International Validation Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (j) of this AD and email to: *AMOC@faa.gov.*

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(j) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Adam Hein, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (316) 946–4116; email: *adam.hein@faa.gov.*

(k) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the material listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this material as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2025–0098, dated April 29, 2025.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA material identified in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: *ADs@easa.europa.eu;* website: *easa.europa.eu.* You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at *ad.easa.europa.eu.*

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110.

(5) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit *www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations* or email *fr.inspection@nara.gov.*

Issued on March 10, 2026.

Steven W. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05100 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2026–2711; Project Identifier MCAI–2024–00232–R; Amendment 39–23289; AD 2026–06–01]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FAA is adopting a new airworthiness directive (AD) for certain Leonardo S.p.a. Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters with a certain supplemental type certificate (STC) installed. This AD was prompted by the absence of instructions on the information placards located next to the rear-facing seats to lock the seat headrest in the highest position during takeoff and landing. This AD requires revising the existing rotorcraft flight manual supplement (RFMS) and replacing the information placard with one that specifies instructions for locking the seat headrest. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective March 31, 2026.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of March 31, 2026.

The FAA must receive comments on this AD by April 30, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* (202) 493–2251.
- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2026–2711; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this final rule, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) material identified in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: *ADs@easa.europa.eu;* website: *easa.europa.eu.* You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at *ad.easa.europa.eu.*
- You may view this material at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110. It is also available at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2026–2711.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Huynh, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (404) 983–5288; email: *frank.huynh@faa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

The FAA invites you to send any written data, views, or arguments about this final rule. Send your comments

using a method listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include ''Docket No. FAA–2026–2711; Project Identifier MCAI–2024–00232–R'' at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the final rule, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this final rule because of those comments.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in 14 CFR 11.35, the FAA will post all comments received, without change, to *regulations.gov,* including any personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this final rule.

Confidential Business Information

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this AD contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this AD, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as ''PROPIN.'' The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this AD. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Frank Huynh, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590. Any commentary that the FAA receives which is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Background

EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA AD 2024–0088, dated April 15, 2024; corrected May 14, 2024 (EASA AD 2024–0088) (also referred to as the MCAI), to correct an unsafe condition on Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters having serial numbers 31087, 31133, 31269, 31305, 31351, 31502, 31712, 31735, 31757, 31865, 31869, 41582 and 41583, if modified in accordance with EASA STC 10030095, original issue and subsequent revisions, or EASA STC 10017198, original issue and subsequent revisions. The MCAI states that the information placards located next to the rear-facing seats on certain Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters do not specify instructions to lock the seat headrest in the highest position during take-off and landing. This condition, if not addressed, could result in injury to helicopter occupants during an emergency landing.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2026–2711.

Material Incorporated by Reference Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed EASA AD 2024–0088, which specifies procedures for replacing certain information placards and updating RFMS 6AB1RFM–1–11 Revision P or RFMS 6AB1RFM–1–6 Revision A, as applicable, to RFMS Temporary Revision TR–2024–001. This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the **ADDRESSES** section.

FAA's Determination

These products have been approved by the civil aviation authority (CAA) of another country and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, that authority has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA is issuing this AD after determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

AD Requirements

This AD requires accomplishing the actions specified in EASA AD 2024–0088, described previously, as incorporated by reference, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this AD. See ''Differences Between this AD and the MCAI'' for a discussion of the general differences included in this AD.''

Differences Between This AD and the MCAI

The MCAI applies to certain Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters modified in accordance with EASA STC 10030095 and EASA STC 10017198, whereas this AD applies to certain Model AB130 and AW139 helicopters modified in accordance with FAA STC SR00049IB (EASA STC 10017198), because EASA STC 10030095 does not have an FAA validation.

Explanation of Required Compliance Information

In the FAA's ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of the AD process, the FAA developed a process to use some CAA ADs as the primary source of information for compliance with requirements for corresponding FAA ADs. The FAA has been coordinating this process with manufacturers and CAAs. As a result, EASA AD 2024–0088 is incorporated by reference in this AD. This AD requires compliance with EASA AD 2024–0088 in its entirety through that incorporation, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this AD. Using common terms that are the same as the heading of a particular section in EASA AD 2024–0088 does not mean that operators need comply only with that section. For example, where the AD requirement refers to ''all required actions and compliance times,'' compliance with this AD requirement is not limited to the section titled ''Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s)'' in EASA AD 2024–0088. Material required by EASA AD 2024–0088 for compliance will be available at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2026–2711 after this AD is published.

Justification for Immediate Adoption and Determination of the Effective Date

Section 553(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*) authorizes agencies to dispense with notice and comment procedures for rules when the agency, for ''good cause,'' finds that those procedures are ''impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.'' Under this section, an agency, upon finding good cause, may issue a final rule without providing notice and seeking comment prior to issuance. Further, section 553(d) of the APA authorizes agencies to make rules effective in less than thirty days, upon a finding of good cause.

The FAA has found the risk to the flying public justifies waiving notice and comment prior to adoption of this rule because no domestic operators use this product. It is unlikely that the FAA will receive any adverse comments or useful information about this AD from any U.S. operator. Accordingly, notice and opportunity for prior public comment are unnecessary, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b). In addition, for the foregoing reason(s), the FAA finds that good cause exists pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d) for making this amendment effective in less than 30 days.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) do not apply when an agency finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553 to adopt a rule without prior notice and comment. Because the FAA has determined that it has good cause to adopt this rule without prior notice and comment, RFA analysis is not required.

Costs of Compliance

There are no costs of compliance with this AD because there are no helicopters with this type certificate on the U.S. Registry.

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

This AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this AD:

(1) Is not a ''significant regulatory action'' under Executive Order 12866, and

(2) Will not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

■ 2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

2026–06–01 Leonardo S.p.a.: Amendment 39–23289; Docket No. FAA–2026–2711; Project Identifier MCAI–2024–00232–R.

(a) Effective Date

This airworthiness directive (AD) is effective March 31, 2026.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to Leonardo S.p.a. Model AB139 and AW139 helicopters having serial number 31087, 31133, 31269, 31305, 31351, 31502, 31712, 31735, 31757, 31865, 31869, 41582 and 41583, certificated in any category, modified in accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SR00049IB.

(d) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code 1100, Placards and Markings.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by the absence of instructions on the information placards located next to the rear-facing seats to lock the seat headrest in the highest position during take-off and landing. The FAA is issuing this AD to prevent the incorrect position of the seat headrest during take-off and landing. The unsafe condition, if not corrected, could result in injury to helicopter occupants during an emergency landing.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Requirements

Except as specified in paragraphs (h) and (i) of this AD: Comply with all required actions and compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, EASA AD 2024–0088, dated April 15, 2024; corrected May 14, 2024 (EASA AD 2024–0088).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2024–0088

(1) Where EASA AD 2024–0088 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) Where EASA AD 2024–0088 specifies compliance in terms of flight hours, this AD requires using hours time-in-service.

(3) This AD does not adopt the ''Remarks'' section of EASA AD 2024–0088.

(i) No Reporting Requirement

Although the material referenced in EASA AD 2024–0088 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not require that action.

(j) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, International Validation Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of the International Validation Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (k) of this AD and email to: *AMOC@faa.gov.*

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local Flight Standards District Office/certificate holding district office.

(k) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Frank Huynh, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 1600 Stewart Avenue, Suite 410, Westbury, NY 11590; phone: (404) 983–5288; email: *frank.huynh@faa.gov.*

(l) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of the material listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this material as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2024–0088, dated April 15, 2024; corrected May 14, 2024.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA material identified in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: *ADs@easa.europa.eu;* website: *easa.europa.eu.* You may find the EASA material on the EASA website at *ad.easa.europa.eu.*

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Office of the Regional Counsel, Southwest Region, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Room 6N–321, Fort Worth, TX 76177. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110.

(5) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit *www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations* or email *fr.inspection@nara.gov.*

Issued on March 10, 2026.

Steven W. Thompson,

Acting Deputy Director, Compliance & Airworthiness Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05098 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

21 CFR Part 1308

[Docket No. DEA–1420]

Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Bromazolam in Schedule I

AGENCY: Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Temporary amendment; temporary scheduling order.

SUMMARY: The Drug Enforcement Administration issues this temporary order to schedule 8-bromo-1-methyl-6-phenyl-4*H*-benzo[*f*][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*][l, 4]diazepine (commonly known as bromazolam), including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers are possible, in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. DEA bases this action on a finding that placing bromazolam in schedule I is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to public safety. This order imposes the regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions applicable to schedule I controlled substances on persons who handle (manufacture, distribute, reverse distribute, import, export, engage in research, conduct instructional activities or chemical analysis, or possess) or propose to handle these substances.

DATES: This temporary order is effective March 16, 2026, until March 16, 2028. If this order is extended or made permanent, DEA will publish a document in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: 8701 Morrissette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Terrence L. Boos, Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration; Mailing Address: 8701 Morrissette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152; Telephone: (571) 362–3249.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issues a temporary scheduling order [1] (in the form of a temporary amendment) to add 8-bromo-1-methyl-6-phenyl-4*H*-benzo[*f*][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*][l, 4]diazepine (commonly known as bromazolam), including its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers, whenever the existence of such salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible, to schedule I under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).

Legal Authority

The CSA provides the Attorney General with the authority to temporarily place a substance in schedule I of the CSA for two years without regard to the evaluation requirements of 21 U.S.C. 811(b), if she finds that such action is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety.[2] In addition, if proceedings to control a substance are initiated under 21 U.S.C. 811(a)(1) while the substance is temporarily controlled under section 811(h), the Attorney General may extend the temporary scheduling for up to one year.[3]

Where the necessary findings are made, a substance may be temporarily scheduled if it is not listed in any other schedule under 21 U.S.C. 812, or if there is no exemption or approval in effect for the substance under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), 21 U.S.C. 355.[4]

In addition, the United States is a party to the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971 Convention), Feb. 21, 1971, 32 U.S.T. 543, 1019 U.N.T.S. 175, as amended. Procedures respecting changes in drug schedules under the 1971 Convention are set forth in 21 U.S.C. 811(d)(2)–(4). When the United States receives notification of a scheduling decision pursuant to Article 2 of the 1971 Convention indicating that a drug or other substance has been added to a schedule specified in the notification, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), after consultation with the Attorney General, shall first determine whether existing legal controls under subchapter I of the CSA and the FD&C Act meet the requirements of the schedule specified in the notification with respect to the specific drug or substance. In the event that the Secretary did not consult with the Attorney General, and the Attorney General did not issue a temporary order, as provided under 21 U.S.C. 811(d)(4), the procedures for permanent scheduling set forth in 21 U.S.C. 811(a) and (b) control. The Attorney General has delegated scheduling authority under 21 U.S.C. 811 to the Administrator of DEA (Administrator).[5]

Background

On June 6, 2024, the Secretariat of the United Nations advised the Secretary of State of the United States that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), during its 67th session on March 19, 2024, voted to place bromazolam in Schedule IV of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (CND Decisions 67/5). As a signatory to this international treaty, the United States is required to place appropriate controls within the CSA on bromazolam to meet the requirements of the treaty. To meet the minimum requirements of this treaty and to confront these emerging substances, DEA is temporarily placing bromazolam in schedule I of the CSA.

The CSA requires the Administrator to notify the Secretary of HHS of an intent to temporarily place a substance in schedule I of the CSA (*i.e.,* to issue a temporary scheduling order).[6] By letter dated June 14, 2024, the previous Administrator transmitted the required notice to place bromazolam in schedule I on a temporary basis to the then-Assistant Secretary for Health of HHS (Assistant Secretary).[7] On June 28, 2024, the previous Assistant Secretary responded to this notice and advised DEA that, based on a review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there were currently no investigational new drug applications or approved new drug applications for bromazolam. The previous Assistant Secretary also stated that HHS had no objection to the temporary placement of this substance in schedule I of the CSA. DEA requested an updated response from HHS, by letter dated June 11, 2025. By letter dated July 10, 2025, the Acting Assistant Secretary of HHS responded that, based on an updated review by FDA, there were currently no approved drug applications or investigational new drug applications for bromazolam. Therefore, HHS had no objections to the temporary placement of bromazolam in schedule I. Bromazolam is not currently listed in any schedule under the CSA, and no exemptions or approvals under FDA's new drug statute, at 21 U.S.C. 355, are in effect for this substance.

DEA has taken into consideration the Acting Assistant Secretary's comments as required by 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(4). DEA has found the control of bromazolam in schedule I on a temporary basis is

[1] Though DEA has used the term ''final order'' with respect to temporary scheduling orders in the past, this action adheres to the statutory language of 21 U.S.C. 811(h), which refers to a ''temporary scheduling order.'' No substantive change is intended.

[2] 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1).

[3] 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(2).

[4] 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1); 21 CFR part 1308.

[5] 28 CFR 0.100.

[6] 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(4).

[7] The Secretary of HHS has delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Health of HHS the authority to make domestic drug scheduling recommendations. *Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, Public Law 91–513, As Amended; Delegation of Authority,* 58 FR 35460 (July 1, 1993).

necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to public safety.

As required by 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1)(A), DEA published a notice of intent (NOI) to temporarily schedule bromazolam in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 2025.[8] That NOI discussed findings from DEA's three-factor analysis dated December 2025, which DEA made available on *www.regulations.gov.*

To find that temporarily placing a substance in schedule I of the CSA is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety, the Administrator must consider three of the eight factors set forth in 21 U.S.C. 811(c): the substance's history and current pattern of abuse; the scope, duration, and significance of abuse; and what, if any, risk there is to the public health.[9] Consideration of these factors includes any information indicating actual abuse, diversion from legitimate channels, and clandestine importation, manufacture, or distribution of bromazolam.[10]

Substances meeting the statutory requirements for temporary scheduling may only be placed in schedule I.[11] Substances in schedule I have high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.[12]

Bromazolam

The dramatic increase in trafficking and abuse of novel psychoactive substances (NPS) in the United States, in particular the benzodiazepine class of substances, has become a national public health concern in recent years. The availability of benzodiazepine substances, with no currently accepted medical use on the illicit drug market, continues to pose an imminent hazard to public safety. Adverse health effects, including slurred speech, ataxia, altered mental state, and respiratory depression, associated with the abuse of such drugs known collectively as the ''designer benzodiazepines,'' their continued evolution, and the increased popularity of these substances have been a serious concern in recent years. The increase in the co-abuse of opioids with designer benzodiazepines has become a particular concern as the United States continues to experience an unprecedented epidemic of opioid misuse and abuse. The identification of bromazolam on the illicit drug market has been reported in the United States and is currently one of the most commonly identified benzodiazepines in drug seizures. Between April 2021 and February 2026, DEA is aware of at least 259 overdose cases involving bromazolam, of which 201 of these cases were associated with a fatality (see Factors 4 and 5). While the cases were often reported in combination with opioids, at least four fatal cases involved bromazolam either alone or in the absence of other psychoactive substances. Additional sources of information demonstrate additional overdoses, which would suggest that this statistic is likely subject to underreporting in the United States.[13]

Available data and information for bromazolam, summarized below, indicate that this substance has a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical uses in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.[14] DEA's three-factor analysis is available in its entirety under ''Supporting and Related Material'' of the public docket for this action at *www.regulations.gov* under Docket Number DEA–1420.

Factor 4. History and Current Pattern of Abuse

Since 2012, numerous synthetic drugs belonging to the benzodiazepine class emerged on the illicit drug market as evidenced by the identification of these drugs in forensic drug exhibits and toxicology samples. Consequently, on July 26, 2023, DEA temporarily scheduled five synthetic benzodiazepine substances (etizolam, flualprazolam, clonazolam, flubromazolam, and diclazepam) in schedule I of the CSA.[15] The dramatic increase in trafficking and abuse associated with designer benzodiazepines has become a national public health concern in recent years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), benzodiazepines were involved in 12,499 overdose deaths in the United States between 2019 and 2021.

Bromazolam, a novel designer benzodiazepine, was first encountered by law enforcement in the United States in 2016. Since that time there has been a dramatic rise in its trafficking and abuse. In addition, various health alerts and overdose data have been issued relating to the identification of bromazolam in toxicology samples. The Center for Forensic Science Research and Education's (CFSRE) NPS Discovery first reported identifying bromazolam in overdose samples in a June 2022 alert. Within this alert, it was noted that bromazolam had been identified in more than 250 toxicology cases submitted to NMS Labs, including both antemortem and postmortem investigations. Between the first quarter of 2019 and June 2022, bromazolam was identified in more than 190 toxicology samples tested at CFSRE, displaying an increase in the detection of bromazolam

[8] *Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Bromazolam in Schedule I,* 90 FR 57924 (Dec. 15, 2025).

[9] 21 U.S.C. 811(c)(4)–(6), (h)(3).

[10] 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(3).

[11] 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1).

[12] 21 U.S.C. 812(b)(1).

[13] *https://www.kentucky.gov/Pages/Activity-stream.aspx?n=AttorneyGeneral&prId=1805.*

[14] When finding schedule I placement on a temporary basis is necessary to avoid imminent hazard to the public, 21 U.S.C 811(h) does not require DEA to consider whether the substance has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Nonetheless, there is no evidence suggesting that bromazolam has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. First, DEA looks to whether the drug or substance has FDA approval for marketing in interstate commerce. When no FDA approval exists, DEA has traditionally applied a five-part test to determine whether a drug or substances has a currently accepted medical use: (1) The drug's chemistry must be known and reproducible; (2) there must be adequate safety studies; (3) there must be adequate and well-controlled studies proving efficacy; (4) the drug must be accepted by qualified experts; and (5) the scientific evidence must be widely available. *See Marijuana Scheduling Petition; Denial of Petition; Remand,* 57 FR 10499 (Mar. 26, 1992), pet. for rev. denied, *Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics* v. *Drug Enforcement Admin.,* 15 F.3d 1131, 1135 (D.C. Cir. 1994). DEA applied the traditional five-part test and concluded the test was not satisfied. In a recent published letter in a different context, HHS applied an additional two-part test to determine currently accepted medical use for substances that do not satisfy the five-part test: (1) whether there exists widespread, current experience with medical use of the substance by licensed health care providers operating in accordance with implemented jurisdiction-authorized programs, where medical use is recognized by entities that regulate the practice of medicine, and, if so, (2) whether there exists some credible scientific support for at least one of the medical conditions for which part (1) is satisfied. On April 11, 2024, the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) issued an opinion, which, among other things, concluded that HHS's two-part test would be sufficient to establish that a drug has a currently accepted medical use. Office of Legal Counsel, Memorandum for Merrick B. Garland Attorney General Re: Questions Related to the Potential Rescheduling of Marijuana at 3 (April 11, 2024). For purposes of this notice of intent, there is no evidence that health care providers have widespread experience with medical use of bromazolam or that the use of bromazolam is recognized by entities that regulate the practice of medicine, so the two-part test also is not satisfied. By letter dated June 28, 2024, DEA has been advised by HHS that there are currently no approved new drug applications or investigational new drug applications for bromazolam. Additionally, HHS communicated no objections to the temporary placement of bromazolam into Schedule I of the CSA. In its July 10, 2025 letter, HHS reaffirmed its position and advised DEA that there are currently no approved new drug applications or investigational new drug applications for bromazolam. Additionally, HHS reaffirmed that it had no objections to the temporary placement of bromazolam in schedule I of the CSA.

[15] *Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Etizolam, Flualprazolam, Clonazolam,* Flubromazolam, and Diclazepam in Schedule I, 88 FR 48112 (July 26, 2023).

from 1 percent in the first quarter of 2021 to 13 percent in the second quarter of 2022. Similarly, between April 2021 and February 2026, DEA's toxicology testing program (DEA TOX [16]) has detected bromazolam in 259 separate cases submitted for expanded analysis. Within these cases, the average age of the user was between 31–40 years old, while greater than 50 percent of users were between 21 and 40 years of age. The increase of bromazolam identifications in toxicology cases demonstrates the continued rise and serious public health concern related to the abuse of this substance since it was first detected in 2016.

Bromazolam, like other designer benzodiazepines, is often encountered in pill form and can be made to mimic the appearance of legitimately prescribed substances, such as alprazolam or other prescription drugs like oxycodone. Designer benzodiazepines have also been encountered in powder and liquid form.

Designer benzodiazepines like bromazolam have been co-abused with other substances, especially fentanyl, according to toxicology reporting. As stated above, between April 2021 through February 2026, DEA TOX results reported a total of 259 cases in which bromazolam was detected in a biological sample. Of these 259 cases, fentanyl was identified in 202 cases, or 78 percent of the time. Fatal and nonfatal cases submitted to DEA TOX saw a large increase in bromazolam abuse since 2021.

Factor 5. Scope, Duration and Significance of Abuse

The first law enforcement encounter of bromazolam, as reported by National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS), was in the second quarter of 2016. While encounters remained low through 2020, a substantial increase in NFLIS reports was observed in 2021, continuing through the present. The NFLIS database was queried on February 26, 2026, for bromazolam case reports. NFLIS registered 16,614 encounters of bromazolam. Due to the recent emergence of these designer benzodiazepines on the illicit market, it is likely that bromazolam is under-reported as forensic laboratories secure reference standards for use in analyzing these novel substances. Bromazolam has been encountered throughout all 50 states.

Factor 6. What, if Any, Risk There Is to the Public Health

The increase in benzodiazepine-related overdoses in the United States has been exacerbated recently by the availability of designer benzodiazepines on the illicit drug market. Bromazolam has pharmacological effects that are similar to other benzodiazepines currently temporarily controlled in schedule I of the CSA. Public health risks associated with bromazolam abuse relate to its pharmacological similarities with known benzodiazepines. Thus, risk to public health is associated with adverse reactions in humans, which are expected to include central nervous system depressant-like effects, such as slurred speech, ataxia, altered mental state, and respiratory depression. While those who abuse bromazolam are likely to obtain it through unregulated sources, the identity, purity, dosage, and adulteration of this substance is uncertain and inconsistent, thus posing significant adverse health risks to the end user. As stated above, between April 2021 through February 2026, DEA TOX results reported a total of 259 cases in which bromazolam was detected in a biological sample. Of these 259 cases, fatality was observed in 201 of the overdose cases.

This rise in bromazolam identifications in toxicology cases has prompted a number of states, including Florida, Ohio, and Indiana, to alert the public of the harms of bromazolam use by issuing public health alerts reporting deaths, nonfatal overdoses, and effects of intoxication. In August 2023, the Indiana Department of Health issued an emerging drug notification to alert law enforcement, first responders, clinicians, and public health professionals about bromazolam. Toxicology results of Indiana decedents from January through June 2023 showed that 35 individuals tested positive for bromazolam, with 17 of those reports coming in April and May 2023 (8 reports and 9 reports respectively). Pharmacological testing has been conducted on bromazolam, showing its activity at the gamma amino butyric acid receptors and ability to substitute for midazolam, an FDA-approved benzodiazepine.

While designer benzodiazepines are often detected in toxicology samples with other substances, especially opioids, evidence of their use alone resulting in serious adverse events have also been encountered. A publication by the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report described three previously healthy young adults who ingested pressed tablets of bromazolam that they reported they believed to be alprazolam (see Factor 6 of the Three-Factor Analysis on the docket for more information). In these specific cases, adverse effects following the ingestion of bromazolam included hypertension, tachycardia, hyperthermia, multiple generalized seizures, and myocardial injury as demonstrated by elevated troponin levels. Bromazolam has also been associated with impaired driving, which is a hazard to public health and safety. Multiple studies demonstrated either the use of bromazolam alone or in conjunction with polydrug abuse, namely with opioids (*e.g.,* fentanyl) or stimulants (*e.g.,* methamphetamine, cocaine).

In May 2022, the Jefferson County Medical Examiner in Alabama first detected bromazolam in their case work. A study describing 10 bromazolam-involved deaths was published in 2024, in which the results demonstrated that fentanyl was also detected in eight of the ten decedents. Bromazolam was detected alongside the benzimidazole opioid metonitazene in an August 2023 drug overdose in Los Angeles County, California. In a retrospective study evaluating bromazolam-related deaths in Travis County, Texas, bromazolam was identified in 112 deaths from 2021 to 2023. Polydrug use was present in 99 percent of the bromazolam-positive deaths, which commonly involved fentanyl (82 percent), methamphetamine (41 percent), and cocaine (28 percent).

In summary, bromazolam has been reported to cause serious adverse effects, including death, following its use.

Finding of Necessity of Schedule I Placement To Avoid Imminent Hazard to Public Safety

In accordance with 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(3), based on the available data and information summarized above, the uncontrolled manufacture, distribution, reverse distribution, importation, exportation, conduct of research and chemical analysis, possession, and abuse of bromazolam poses an imminent hazard to public safety. Bromazolam has not been approved by FDA and has not been marketed in the United States, and DEA is not aware of any currently accepted medical uses for bromazolam in the United States. A substance meeting the statutory requirements for temporary scheduling, found in 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1), may only be placed in schedule I. Substances in schedule I must have a high potential

[16] DEA TOX is a surveillance program that aims to detect NPS in fatal and nonfatal overdose cases within the United States. From these cases, biological samples, as well as drug paraphernalia (on limited occasions), are submitted for analysis by hospitals, medical examiners, poison centers, and law enforcement nationwide. DEA TOX data include confirmed detections of NPS through the data query date, February 26, 2026.

for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision. Available data and information for bromazolam indicate that this substance meets the three statutory criteria.

As required by 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(4), the then-Acting Administrator transmitted to the Acting Assistant Secretary, via letters dated June 14, 2024, and June 11, 2025, notice of DEA's intent to place bromazolam in schedule I on a temporary basis. By letters dated June 28, 2024, and July 10, 2025, the Acting Assistant Secretary had no objection to the temporary placement of bromazolam in schedule I. DEA subsequently published this NOI in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 2025.[17]

Conclusion

In accordance with 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1) and (3), the Administrator considered available data and information, herein set forth the grounds for his determination that it is necessary to temporarily schedule bromazolam in schedule I of the CSA, and finds that placement of this substance in schedule I is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public's safety.

The temporary placement of bromazolam in schedule I of the CSA will take effect on the date the order is published in the **Federal Register** and will remain in effect for two years, with a possible extension of one year, pending completion of the regular (permanent) scheduling process.[18]

The CSA sets forth specific criteria for scheduling drugs or other substances. Permanent scheduling actions in accordance with 21 U.S.C. 811(a) are subject to formal rulemaking procedures ''on the record after opportunity for a hearing'' conducted pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557.[19] The permanent scheduling process of formal rulemaking affords interested parties appropriate process and the government any additional relevant information needed to make a determination. Final decisions that conclude the permanent scheduling process of formal rulemaking are subject to judicial review.[20] Temporary scheduling orders are not subject to judicial review.[21]

[17] *Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Bromazolam in Schedule I,* 90 FR 57924 (Dec. 15, 2025).

[18] 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1) and (2).

[19] 21 U.S.C. 811.

[20] 21 U.S.C. 877.

[21] 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(6).

Requirements for Handling

Upon the effective date of this temporary order, bromazolam will be subject to the regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions applicable to the manufacture, distribution, reverse distribution, importation, exportation, possession of, and engagement in research and conduct of instructional activities or chemical analysis with, schedule I controlled substances, including but not limited to the following:

1. *Registration.* Any person who handles (possesses, manufactures, distributes, reverse distributes, imports, exports, engages in research, or conducts instructional activities or chemical analysis with) or desires to handle, bromazolam must be registered with DEA to conduct such activities, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 822, 823, 957, and 958, and in accordance with 21 CFR parts 1301 and 1312, as of March 16, 2026. Any person who currently handles bromazolam and is not registered with DEA must submit an application for registration and may not continue to handle bromazolam as of March 16, 2026, unless DEA has approved that application for registration pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 822, 823, 957, and 958, and in accordance with 21 CFR parts 1301 and 1312.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 822(h), if, on March 16, 2026, a person is conducting research on bromazolam and is already registered to conduct research with another controlled substance in schedule I, the person may continue to conduct research on bromazolam if they submit a completed application for registration or modification of existing registration, as applicable, to conduct research with bromazolam not later than 90 calendar days after March 16, 2026. The person may continue to conduct such research until the person withdraws the application or the Administrator serves on the person an order to show cause proposing denial of the application pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 824(c) and in accordance with 21 CFR 1301.37. If the Administrator serves an order to show cause proposing denial of the application or modification, the person may not continue to conduct research with bromazolam and may not receive or otherwise obtain additional bromazolam. If an order to show cause is served and the person requests a hearing in accordance with 21 CFR 1301.37(d), the hearing shall be held in accordance with 21 CFR 1301.41–1301.46 on an expedited basis and not later than 45 calendar days after the request is made, except that the hearing may be held at a later time if so requested by the person. If the person sends a copy of the application to a manufacturer or distributor of bromazolam, receipt of the copy by the manufacturer or distributor constitutes sufficient evidence that the person is authorized to receive bromazolam pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 822(h)(4). Continuation of research under 21 U.S.C. 822(h) does not authorize any other handling (*e.g.,* distribution) of bromazolam.

Retail sales of schedule I controlled substances to the general public are not allowed under the CSA. Possession of any quantity of bromazolam in a manner not authorized by the CSA on or after March 16, 2026 is unlawful, and those in possession of any quantity of bromazolam may be subject to prosecution pursuant to the CSA.

2. *Disposal of stocks.* Any person who does not desire or is unable to obtain a schedule I registration to handle bromazolam must surrender all currently held quantities of this substance.

3. *Security.* Bromazolam is subject to schedule I security requirements and must be handled in accordance with 21 CFR 1301.71–1301.93, as of March 16, 2026.

4. *Labeling and Packaging.* All labels, labeling, and packaging for commercial containers of bromazolam must comply with 21 U.S.C. 825 and 958(e) and 21 CFR part 1302. Current DEA registrants will have 30 calendar days from March 16, 2026 to comply with all labeling and packaging requirements.

5. *Inventory.* Every DEA registrant who possesses any quantity of bromazolam on the effective date of this order must take an inventory of all stocks of this substance on hand pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 827 and 958, and in accordance with 21 CFR 1304.03, 1304.04, and 1304.11. Current DEA registrants will have 30 calendar days from the effective date of this order to comply with all inventory requirements. After the initial inventory, every DEA registrant must take an inventory of all controlled substances (including bromazolam) on hand on a biennial basis pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 827 and 958 and in accordance with 21 CFR 1304.03, 1304.04, and 1304.11.

6. *Records.* All DEA registrants must maintain records with respect to bromazolam pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 827 and 958(e) and in accordance with 21 CFR parts 1304, 1312, and 1317, and section 1307.11. Current DEA registrants authorized to handle bromazolam shall have 30 calendar days from the effective date of this order to comply with all recordkeeping requirements.

7. *Reports.* All DEA registrants must submit reports with respect to bromazolam pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 827 and in accordance with 21 CFR parts 1304, 1312, and 1317, and sections 1301.74(c) and 1301.76(b), as of March 16, 2026. Manufacturers and distributors must also submit reports regarding bromazolam to the Automation of Reports and Consolidated Order System pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 827 and in accordance with 21 CFR parts 1304 and 1312.

8. *Order Forms.* All DEA registrants who distribute bromazolam must comply with order form requirements pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 828 and in accordance with 21 CFR part 1305 as of March 16, 2026.

9. *Importation and Exportation.* All importation and exportation of bromazolam must be in compliance with 21 U.S.C. 952, 953, 957, and 958, and in accordance with 21 CFR part 1312 as of March 16, 2026.

10. *Quota.* Only DEA-registered manufacturers may manufacture bromazolam in accordance with a quota assigned pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 826 and in accordance with 21 CFR part 1303, as of March 16, 2026.

11. *Liability.* Any activity involving bromazolam not authorized by or in violation of the CSA, occurring as of March 16, 2026, is unlawful, and may subject the person to administrative, civil, and/or criminal sanctions.

Regulatory Analyses

The CSA provides for expedited temporary scheduling actions where necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to public safety. Under 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1), the Administrator, as delegated by the Attorney General, may, by order, temporarily place substances in schedule I. Such orders may not be issued before the expiration of 30 days from: (1) the publication of a notice in the **Federal Register** of the intent to issue such order and the grounds upon which such order is to be issued, and (2) the date that notice of the proposed temporary scheduling order is transmitted to the Assistant Secretary, as delegated by the Secretary of HHS.[22]

Inasmuch as section 811(h) directs that temporary scheduling actions be issued by order (as distinct from a rule) and sets forth the procedures by which such orders are to be issued, DEA believes the notice-and-comment requirements the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) at 5 U.S.C. 553, which are applicable to rulemaking, do not apply to this temporary scheduling order. The APA expressly differentiates between orders and rules, as it defines an ''order'' to mean a ''final disposition, whether affirmative, negative, injunctive, or declaratory in form, of an agency *in a matter other than rule making.*'' [23] This contrasts with permanent scheduling actions, which are subject to formal rulemaking procedures done ''on the record after opportunity for a hearing,'' and final decisions that conclude the scheduling process and are subject to judicial review.[24] The specific language chosen by Congress indicates its intent that DEA issue *orders* instead of proceeding by rulemaking when temporarily scheduling substances. Given that Congress specifically requires the Administrator (as delegated by the Attorney General) to follow rulemaking procedures for *other* kinds of scheduling actions,[25] it is noteworthy that, in section 811(h)(1), Congress authorized the issuance of temporary scheduling actions by order rather than by rule.

Even assuming that this action is subject to the notice-and-comment requirements of the APA, the Administrator finds that there is good cause to forgo these requirements pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), as any further delays in the process for issuing temporary scheduling orders would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest given the manifest urgency to avoid an imminent hazard to public safety.

Although DEA believes this temporary scheduling order is not subject to the notice-and-comment requirements of the APA, DEA notes that in accordance with 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(4), the Administrator took into consideration comments submitted by the Acting Assistant Secretary in response to the notices that DEA transmitted to the Acting Assistant Secretary pursuant to such subsection.

Further, DEA believes that this temporary scheduling action is not a ''rule'' as defined by 5 U.S.C. 601(2), and, accordingly, is not subject to the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). The requirements for the preparation of an initial regulatory flexibility analysis in 5 U.S.C. 603(a) are not applicable where, as here, DEA is not required by the APA or any other law to publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking. Therefore, in this instance, since DEA believes this temporary scheduling action is not a ''rule,'' it is not subject to the requirements of the RFA when issuing this temporary action.

In accordance with the principles of Executive Orders (E.O.) 12866 and 13563, this action is not a significant regulatory action. E.O. 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health, and safety effects; distributive impacts; and equity). E.O. 13563 is supplemental to and reaffirms the principles, structures, and definitions governing regulatory review as established in E.O. 12866. E.O. 12866, sec. 3(f), provides the definition of a ''significant regulatory action,'' requiring review by the Office of Management and Budget. Because this is not a rulemaking action, this is not a significant regulatory action as defined in Section 3(f) of E.O. 12866. In addition, DEA scheduling actions are not subject to either E.O. 14192, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation, or E.O. 14294, Fighting Overcriminalization in Federal Regulations.

This action will not have substantial direct effects on the states, on the relationship between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with E.O. 13132, it is determined that this action does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

List of Subjects in 21 CFR Part 1308

Administrative practice and procedure, Drug traffic control, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set out above, DEA amends 21 CFR part 1308 as follows:

PART 1308—SCHEDULES OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 1308 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 811, 812, 871(b), 956(b), unless otherwise noted.

■ 2. In § 1308.11, add paragraph (h)(86) to read as follows:

§ 1308.11 Schedule I

* * * * *

(h) * * *

[22] 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1).

[23] 5 U.S.C. 551(6) (emphasis added).

[24] 21 U.S.C. 811(a) and 877.

[25] *See* 21 U.S.C. 811(a).

*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
(86) 8-bromo-1-methyl-6-phenyl-4*H*-benzo[*f*][1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-*a*][l ,4]diazepine, its salts, isomers, and salts of isomers (Other names: bromazolam)							2778

Signing Authority

This document of the Drug Enforcement Administration was signed on March 10, 2026, by Administrator Terrance C. Cole. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DEA. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DEA Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of DEA. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Heather Achbach,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Drug Enforcement Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026–05064 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–09–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

22 CFR Part 135

[Public Notice: 12969]

RIN 1400–AG20

Amendments to HAVANA Act of 2021 Implementation Rules

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule provides a change in the dates for allowable claims under the HAVANA Act of 2021. The change, mandated by the 2026 National Defense Authorization Act, changes the dates for allowable claims from ''on or after January 1, 2016'' to ''on or after September 11, 2001.'' This rule also provides a deadline for applicants to submit appeals of adverse decisions on their applications, plus administrative changes.

DATES: This rule is effective March 16, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alice Kottmyer, Attorney Adviser, Office of Management, *kottmyeram@state.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 8, 2021, the ''Helping American Victims Affected by Neurological Attacks'' (HAVANA) Act of 2021 became law (Pub. L. 117–46). In this Act (codified at 22 U.S.C. 2680b), Congress authorized federal government agencies to compensate affected current employees, former employees, and their dependents for qualifying injuries to the brain. The statute defined a covered employee as one who, on or after January 1, 2016, became injured by reason of a qualifying injury to the brain (which is itself a defined term), and it required the Department (and other agencies) to ''prescribe regulations'' implementing the HAVANA Act not later than 180 days after the effective date of the Act. The Department's implementation of the HAVANA Act is in Part 135 of Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations.[1]

On December 18, 2025, the President signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2026 (NDAA FY26). Section 5604 of the NDAA FY26 struck the phrase ''January 1, 2016'' and inserted ''September 11, 2001'' in its place. This rule implements that change in §§ 135.1, 135.2 (three places), and 135.3 (three places) of 22 CFR.

In this rulemaking, the Department is also removing an outdated reference to the Bureau of Global Talent Management by changing it to ''the Department''. Also, in § 135.3(g), the Department is clarifying that applicants must file appeals of adverse decisions not later than 60 days after the date of the adverse decision. An appeal deadline establishes a clear deadline for appeals, aligning with regulations implemented by other agencies,[2] Setting a time limit on appeals submission will provide closure to requests without leaving the possibility of appeal open indefinitely. Although the Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources is the final appeal authority, the Deputy Secretary has, and the Secretary retains, appeal authority, should the Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources be unavailable to act on the appeal. The rule also provides for the approximately half-dozen applicants who have received an adverse response to their claim but have not filed an appeal. The rule provides them with a deadline to file an appeal of 60 days from the effective date of the rule.

Finally, the Department notes that ''Under Secretary for Management'' includes anyone with the authority of the Under Secretary. The Secretary of State has, from time to time, issued delegations of the authority of the Under Secretary to other Department officers, to be exercised when the Under Secretary is unavailable or the position is vacant. That delegated authority would include the authority referenced in § 135.3(f). In addition, if the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources is unavailable to act on an appeal, the Deputy Secretary of State has delegated authority to act on it.[3]

Regulatory Analysis

Administrative Procedure Act

This rule is being published as a final rule and is exempt from notice and comment under the ''good cause'' exemption to the Administrative Procedure Act. Congress intended for the coverage under the HAVANA Act to be expanded as soon as possible, and the Department finds that any delay in the effective date would be contrary to the public interest. For the same reason, the rule is exempt from the 30-day delay in effective date under 5 U.S.C. 553(d).

Congressional Review Act

The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined that this rule is not a major rule as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This rule will not result in the expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of $100 million in any year; and it will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. Therefore, no actions were deemed necessary under the provisions of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Executive Order 13175

The Department has determined that this rulemaking will not have tribal implications, will not impose substantial direct compliance costs on Indian tribal governments, and will not pre-empt tribal law. Accordingly, the

[1] *See* final rule published at 88 FR 4722 (January 25, 2023).

[2] See, *for e.g.,* 28 CFR 106.5(e) and 32 CFR 49.5(d).

[3] See Delegation of Authority 538, 88 FR 13005.

requirements of Executive Order 13175 do not apply to this rulemaking.

Regulatory Flexibility Act: Small Business

The Department of State certifies that this rulemaking will not have an impact on a substantial number of small entities. A regulatory flexibility analysis is not required under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*).

Executive Order 12866, 14192, and 13563

OIRA has designated this rule as ''not significant'' under Executive Order 12866. The benefits of the rule outweigh any costs to the public, which are minimal. This rulemaking is required under NDAA FY26. This rule is exempt from the provisions of Executive Order 14192, since it has been designated ''not significant''.

Executive Order 12988

The Department of State has reviewed this rule in light of Executive Order 12988 to eliminate ambiguity, minimize litigation, establish clear legal standards, and reduce burden.

Executive Orders 12372 and 13132

This rule will not have substantial direct effect on the states, on the relationships between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 13132, it is determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to require consultations or warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. Executive Order 12372, regarding intergovernmental consultation on federal programs and activities, does not apply to this regulation.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rulemaking is related to an information collection for the Form DS–4316, ''Eligibility Questionnaire for HAVANA Act Patients,'' OMB Control Number 1405–0250. Question 4 on the DS–4316 is being updated to reflect the statutory change.

List of Subjects in 22 CFR Part 135

Government employees, Federal retirees, Health care.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated in the preamble, the Department of State amends part 135 to subchapter N of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, to read as follows:

PART 135—IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HAVANA ACT OF 2021

■ 1. The authority citation for part 135 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 2651a; 22 U.S.C. 2680b.

§ 135.1 and 135.2 [Amended]

■ 2. Amend §§ 135.1 and 135.2, by removing the date ''January 1, 2016'' wherever it appears, and adding, in its place, the date ''September 11, 2001''.

■ 3. Amend § 135.3 by:

■ a. In paragraphs (a) through (c), removing the date ''January 1, 2016'' wherever it appears and adding, in its place, the date ''September 11, 2001''; and

■ b. Revising paragraphs (f) and (g).

The revisions read as follows:

§ 135.3 Eligibility for payments by the Department of State.

* * * * *

(f) The Under Secretary of State for Management may approve payments under this section. The Department will notify individuals of the decision in writing.

(g) An appeal of a decision made by the Under Secretary of State for Management may be directed to the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources in writing not later than 60 calendar days after the date of the decision by the Under Secretary for Management. The Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources is the final appeal authority. In the event that this official is unavailable or the position is vacant, the Secretary of State or Deputy Secretary of State may act as final appeal authority. The Department will notify individuals of the decision on the appeal in writing. Individuals who received a decision from the Under Secretary for Management that was dated on or before March 16, 2026, have until March 16, 2026, to file an appeal of such decision.

Darren W. Hultman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Personnel and Training, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–05113 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 216

[RTID 0648–XF601]

Notification of Comparability Findings for New Caledonia, Grenada, and Ireland Under the Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notification; publication of comparability finding determinations.

DATES: These comparability findings are valid and in effect from March 16, 2026 through December 31, 2029, or for such other period as NMFS may specify.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah Ellgen, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, NMFS, (302) 827–7568, *mmpa.loff@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) precludes the import into the United States of fish and fish products taken in foreign commercial fisheries that cause serious injury and mortality of marine mammals in excess of U.S. standards. Regulations issued to implement the MMPA import provisions require exporting nations to receive a finding that they maintain a regulatory program with respect to incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations that includes, or effectively achieves, results comparable to the U.S. program.

On September 2, 2025, NMFS announced its 2025 MMPA comparability finding determinations in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 42395) and posted the determinations on its website. Nations whose fisheries were denied comparability findings were prohibited from importing fish and fish products from those fisheries into the United States beginning January 1, 2026. Nations may reapply for a comparability finding for the affected fisheries at any time.

New Caledonia, Grenada, and Ireland were denied comparability findings for some or all of their fisheries, and have reapplied for comparability findings. NMFS determined that they have addressed the issues for which they were denied comparability findings and with this notice announces that the denied fisheries (New Caledonia: Fishery ID 1880; Grenada: Fishery IDs

1251, 1252, 1253, 1258, and 12603; and Ireland: Fishery IDs 1388 and 1386) have received comparability findings and the corresponding import prohibitions are removed effective March 16, 2026. These comparability finding reports can be found at: *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/international-affairs/2025-marine-mammal-protection-act-comparability-finding-determinations.*

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05115 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 260209–0039; RTID 0648–XF608]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; 2026 Scup Winter I Commercial Quota Harvested

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the 2026 scup Winter I commercial quota has been harvested. Vessels issued a commercial Federal fisheries permit for the scup fishery may not land scup for the remainder of the Winter I quota period. Regulations governing the scup fishery require publication of this notification to advise vessel and dealer permit holders that no Federal commercial quota is available for landing scup through the end of Winter I (April 30, 2026).

DATES: Effective 0001 hours March 16, 2026, through April 30, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Rigdon, (978) 281–9336, or *Matthew.Rigdon@noaa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations governing the scup fishery are found at 50 CFR 648.120 through 648.131. The regulations at § 648.123(a) require that, when NMFS projects that 100 percent of the commercial quota for a quota period has been harvested, the Regional Administrator must close the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to scup fishing by commercially permitted vessels for the remainder of that period. No vessel may fish for, possess, or land scup that is harvested in or from the EEZ after the announced closure date.

The 2026 Winter I commercial quota for scup is 7,984,470 pounds (3,621,695 kilograms) (91 FR 7896, February 19, 2026). The NMFS Regional Administrator for the Greater Atlantic Region monitors commercial landings and determines when the commercial quota has been harvested. NMFS is required to publish notification in the **Federal Register** advising and notifying commercial vessels and dealer permit holders that, effective upon a specific date, the Winter I commercial quota has been harvested, and no commercial quota is available for landing scup through the remainder of the Winter I quota period (January 1–April 30). Based on dealer reports and other available information, the Regional Administrator has determined that the available Winter I quota has been harvested.

The regulations at § 648.14(o) prohibit all vessels from fishing for, possessing, or landing scup that is harvested in or from the EEZ. They further prohibit federally permitted vessels from landing scup for sale that were harvested from either State waters or the EEZ. In addition, all persons are prohibited from purchasing or otherwise receiving scup harvested from the EEZ for a commercial purpose after the effective date of the **Federal Register** notification stating that the commercial quota is no longer available. Therefore, effective 0001 hours on March 16, 2026, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land scup in or from the EEZ, federally permitted vessels may not land scup for sale, and dealers may not purchase or otherwise receive scup harvested from the EEZ through April 30, 2026.

Pursuant to § 648.123(a)(2)(iv), during a fishing year in which the Winter I quota period is closed prior to April 15, a State may apply to the Regional Administrator for authorization to count scup landed for sale in that State from April 15 through April 30 by State-only permitted vessels fishing exclusively in waters under the jurisdiction of that State against the Summer period quota. Requests to the Regional Administrator to count scup landings in a State from April 15 through April 30 against the Summer period quota must be made by letter signed by the principal State official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her designee, and must be received by the Regional Administrator no later than April 15. Within 10 working days following receipt of the letter, the Regional Administrator shall notify the appropriate State official of the disposition of the request.

Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment because it would be contrary to the public interest. This action closes the commercial scup fishery until April 30, 2026, pursuant to current regulations. The regulations at 50 CFR 648.123(a) require such action to ensure that scup vessels do not exceed quotas allocated to each quota period. If implementation of this closure was delayed to solicit prior public comment, the quota for this fishing year would be exceeded, which would require a reduction to the 2027 Winter I quota, thereby reducing future fishing opportunities and undermining the conservation objectives of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The Assistant Administrator further finds, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), good cause to waive the 30-day delayed effectiveness period for the reason stated above.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 12, 2026.

David R. Blankinship,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05073 Filed 3–12–26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

Proposed Rules

Federal Register
Vol. 91, No. 50
Monday, March 16, 2026

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 TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2026–2294; Project Identifier MCAI–2025–00011–E]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Engines

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to adopt a new airworthiness directive (AD) for all Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (RRD) Model Trent 1000–A2, Trent 1000–AE2, Trent 1000–C2, Trent 1000–CE2, Trent 1000–D2, Trent 1000–E2, Trent 1000–G2, Trent 1000–H2, Trent 1000–J2, Trent 1000–K2, and Trent 1000–L2 engines. This proposed AD was prompted by reports of cracking of the intermediate pressure (IP) compressor variable inlet guide vanes (VIGVs) due to high-cycle fatigue propagation. This proposed AD would require repetitive borescope inspections (BSIs) for cracks of the IP compressor VIGVs and, depending on the inspection results, reduced inspection intervals for the repetitive BSIs, or removal of the engine from service and replacement of the IP compressor VIGVs. The FAA is proposing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: The FAA must receive comments on this NPRM by April 30, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, using the procedures found in 14 CFR 11.43 and 11.45, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *regulations.gov*. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* (202) 493–2251.
- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* Deliver to Mail address above between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

AD Docket: You may examine the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2026–2294; or in person at Docket Operations between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains this NPRM, the mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI), any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

Material Incorporated by Reference:

- For European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) material identified in this proposed AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: *ADs@easa.europa.eu*; website: *easa.europa.eu*. You may find this material on the EASA website at *ad.easa.europa.eu*.
- You may view this material at the FAA, Operational Safety Branch, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexis Whitaker, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: (516) 228–7309; email: *alexis.j.whitaker@faa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

The FAA invites you to send any written relevant data, views, or arguments about this proposal. Send your comments using a method listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include ''Docket No. FAA–2026–2294; Project Identifier MCAI–2025–00011–E'' at the beginning of your comments. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. The FAA will consider all comments received by the closing date and may amend this proposal because of those comments.

Except for Confidential Business Information (CBI) as described in the following paragraph, and other information as described in 14 CFR 11.35, the FAA will post all comments received, without change, to *regulations.gov,* including any personal information you provide. The agency will also post a report summarizing each substantive verbal contact received about this NPRM.

Confidential Business Information

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this NPRM contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this NPRM, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission containing CBI as ''PROPIN.'' The FAA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this NPRM. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Alexis Whitaker, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198. Any commentary that the FAA receives which is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Background

EASA, which is the Technical Agent for the Member States of the European Union, has issued EASA AD 2025–0002, dated January 7, 2025 (EASA AD 2025–0002) (also referred to as the MCAI), to correct an unsafe condition on all RRD Model Trent 1000–A2, Trent 1000–AE2, Trent 1000–C2, Trent 1000–CE2, Trent 1000–D2, Trent 1000–E2, Trent 1000–G2, Trent 1000–H2, Trent 1000–J2, Trent 1000–K2, and Trent 1000–L2 engines. The MCAI states that cracking of the IP compressor variable inlet guide vane (VIGV) on Trent 1000 Pack C engines was reported and subsequent investigation attributed the cracking to high-cycle fatigue propagation phenomenon. The MCAI also states that the engine manufacturer issued material for repetitive BSIs for cracks of the IP compressor VIGVs and depending on the inspection results, reduced inspection intervals for the repetitive BSIs or removal of the engine from service. This condition, if not

addressed, could result in release of fractured parts with a steady state surge, consequent uncommanded in-flight shutdown (IFSD) and, in the case of dual-engine IFSD, reduced control of the airplane.

You may examine the MCAI in the AD docket at *regulations.gov* under Docket No. FAA–2026–2294.

Material Incorporated by Reference Under 1 CFR Part 51

The FAA reviewed EASA AD 2025–0002, which specifies procedures for performing repetitive BSIs for cracks of the IP compressor VIGVs and applicable corrective actions. Corrective actions include, depending on the inspection findings, reduced inspection intervals for the repetitive BSIs, or removal of the engine from service and replacement of the IP compressor VIGVs. This material is reasonably available because the interested parties have access to it through their normal course of business or by the means identified in the **ADDRESSES** section.

FAA's Determination

These products have been approved by the civil aviation authority of another country and are approved for operation in the United States. Pursuant to the FAA's bilateral agreement with this State of Design Authority, that authority has notified the FAA of the unsafe condition described in the MCAI referenced above. The FAA is issuing this NPRM after determining that the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop on other products of the same type design.

Proposed AD Requirements in This NPRM

This proposed AD would require accomplishing the actions specified in the EASA AD 2025–0002, described previously, as incorporated by reference, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this proposed AD.

Explanation of Required Compliance Information

In the FAA's ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of the AD process, the FAA developed a process to use some CAA ADs as the primary source of information for compliance with requirements for corresponding FAA ADs. The FAA has been coordinating this process with manufacturers and CAAs. As a result, the FAA proposes to incorporate EASA AD 2025–0002 by reference in the FAA final rule. This proposed AD would, therefore, require compliance with EASA AD 2025–0002 in its entirety through that incorporation, except for any differences identified as exceptions in the regulatory text of this proposed AD. Using common terms that are the same as the heading of a particular section in EASA AD 2025–0002 does not mean that operators need comply only with that section. For example, where the AD requirement refers to ''all required actions and compliance times,'' compliance with this AD requirement is not limited to the section titled ''Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s)'' in EASA AD 2025–0002. Material required in EASA AD 2025–0002 for compliance will be available at *www.regulations.gov* by searching for and locating Docket No. FAA–2026–2294 after the FAA final rule is published.

Interim Action

The FAA considers that this proposed AD would be an interim action. If final action is later identified, the FAA might consider further rulemaking at that time.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD, if adopted as proposed, would affect 28 engines installed on airplanes of U.S. registry.

The FAA estimates the following costs to comply with this proposed AD:

ESTIMATED COSTS

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product	Cost on U.S. operators
Borescope inspection of the IP compressor VIGVs ..	6 work-hours × $85 per hour = $510	$0	$510	$14,280

The FAA estimates the following costs to do any necessary repairs that would be required based on the results of the proposed inspection. The agency has no way of determining the number of engines that might need these replacements:

ON-CONDITION COSTS

Action	Labor cost	Parts cost	Cost per product
Replacement of each cracked IP compressor VIGV ...	110 work-hours × $85 per hour = $9,350	$3,307	$12,657

Authority for This Rulemaking

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

The FAA is issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements. Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

Regulatory Findings

The FAA determined that this proposed AD would not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This proposed AD would not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify this proposed regulation:

(1) Is not a ''significant regulatory action'' under Executive Order 12866,

(2) Would not affect intrastate aviation in Alaska, and

(3) Would not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA proposes to amend 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

■ 2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG: Docket No. FAA–2026–2294; Project Identifier MCAI–2025–00011–E.

(a) Comments Due Date

The FAA must receive comments on this airworthiness directive (AD) by April 30, 2026.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to all Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG Model Trent 1000–A2, Trent 1000–AE2, Trent 1000–C2, Trent 1000–CE2, Trent 1000–D2, Trent 1000–E2, Trent 1000–G2, Trent 1000–H2, Trent 1000–J2, Trent 1000–K2, and Trent 1000–L2 engines.

(d) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code 7200, Engine (Turbine/Turboprop); 7230, Turbine Engine Compressor Section.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by reports of cracking of the intermediate pressure (IP) compressor variable inlet guide vanes (VIGVs) due to high-cycle fatigue propagation. The FAA is issuing this AD to detect and correct cracking of the IP compressor VIGVs. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in release of fractured parts with a steady state surge, consequent uncommanded in-flight shutdown (IFSD) and, in the case of dual-engine IFSD, reduced control of the airplane.

(f) Compliance

Comply with this AD within the compliance times specified, unless already done.

(g) Required Actions

Except as specified in paragraphs (h) and (i) of this AD: Do all required actions within the compliance times specified in, and in accordance with, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2025–0002, dated January 7, 2025 (EASA AD 2025–0002).

(h) Exceptions to EASA AD 2025–0002

(1) Where EASA AD 2025–0002 refers to its effective date, this AD requires using the effective date of this AD.

(2) This AD does not adopt the ''Remarks'' section of EASA AD 2025–0002.

(i) No Reporting Requirement

Although the service information referenced in EASA AD 2025–0002 specifies to submit certain information to the manufacturer, this AD does not include that requirement.

(j) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs):

(1) The Manager, AIR–520 Continued Operational Safety Branch, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. In accordance with 14 CFR 39.19, send your request to your principal inspector or local Flight Standards District Office, as appropriate. If sending information directly to the manager of AIR–520 Continued Operational Safety Branch, send it to the attention of the person identified in paragraph (k) of this AD and email to: *AMOC@faa.gov*.

(2) Before using any approved AMOC, notify your appropriate principal inspector, or lacking a principal inspector, the manager of the local flight standards district office/certificate holding district office.

(k) Additional Information

For more information about this AD, contact Alexis Whitaker, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 2200 South 216th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198; phone: (516) 228–7309; email: *alexis.j.whitaker@faa.gov*.

(l) Material Incorporated by Reference

(1) The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference (IBR) of the material listed in this paragraph under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(2) You must use this material as applicable to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(i) European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD 2025–0002, dated January 7, 2025.

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) For EASA material identified in this AD, contact EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; phone: +49 221 8999 000; email: *ADs@easa.europa.eu*; website: *easa.europa.eu*. You may find this material on the EASA website at *ad.easa.europa.eu*.

(4) You may view this material at the FAA, Operational Safety Branch, 1200 District Avenue, Burlington, MA 01803. For information on the availability of this material at the FAA, call (817) 222–5110.

(5) You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit *www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations* or email *fr.inspection@nara.gov*.

Issued on March 5, 2026.

Peter A. White,

Deputy Director, Integrated Certificate Management Division, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05089 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 71

[Docket No. FAA–2026–3074; Airspace Docket No. 26–ASO–5]

RIN 2120–AA66

Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Revoke Class E Airspace; Fort Knox, KY

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This action proposes to amend the Class D and Class E airspace and revoke Class E airspace at Fort Knox, KY. The FAA is proposing this action as the result of a biennial airspace review conducted due to the decommissioning of the Godman non-directional beacon (NDB). The geographic coordinates of Godman AAF (Army Air Field), Fort Knox, KY, would also be updated to coincide with the FAA's aeronautical database. This action would bring the airspace into compliance with FAA orders and support instrument flight rule (IFR) procedures and operations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 30, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send comments identified by FAA Docket No. FAA–2026–3074 and Airspace Docket No. 26–ASO–5 using any of the following methods:

* *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *www.regulations.gov* and follow the online instructions for sending your comments electronically.

* *Mail:* Send comments to Docket Operations, M–30; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W12–140, West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

* *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Take comments to Docket Operations in

Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

* *Fax:* Fax comments to Docket Operations at (202) 493–2251.

Docket: Background documents or comments received may be read at *www.regulations.gov* at any time. Follow the online instructions for accessing the docket or go to Docket Operations in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FAA Order JO 7400.11K, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, and subsequent amendments can be viewed online at *www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/*. You may also contact the Rules and Regulations Group, Office of Policy, Federal Aviation Administration, 600 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20597; telephone: (202) 267–8783.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Claypool, Federal Aviation Administration, Operations Support Group, Central Service Center, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177; telephone (817) 222–5711.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority for This Rulemaking

The FAA's authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency's authority. This rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This regulation is within the scope of that authority as it would amend the Class D and Class E airspace and revoke Class E airspace at the affected airport to support IFR operations.

Comments Invited

The FAA invites interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written comments, data, or views. Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, aeronautical, economic, environmental, and energy-related aspects of the proposal. The most helpful comments reference a specific portion of the proposal, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include supporting data. To ensure the docket does not contain duplicate comments, commenters should submit only one time if comments are filed electronically, or commenters should send only one copy of written comments if comments are filed in writing.

The FAA will file in the docket all comments it receives, as well as a report summarizing each substantive public contact with FAA personnel concerning this proposed rulemaking. Before acting on this proposal, the FAA will consider all comments it received on or before the closing date for comments. The FAA will consider comments filed after the comment period has closed if it is possible to do so without incurring expense or delay. The FAA may change this proposal in light of the comments it receives.

Privacy: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to *www.regulations.gov* as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14FDMS), which can be reviewed at *www.dot.gov/privacy*.

Availability of Rulemaking Documents

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded through the internet at *www.regulations.gov*. Recently published rulemaking documents can also be accessed through the FAA's web page at *www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/airspace_amendments/*.

You may review the public docket containing the proposal, any comments received, and any final disposition in person in the Dockets Office (see the **ADDRESSES** section for the address, phone number, and hours of operations). An informal docket may also be examined during normal business hours at the Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Organization, Central Service Center, Operations Support Group, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177.

Incorporation by Reference

Class D and E airspace relevant to this action are published in paragraphs 5000, 6002, 6004, and 6005 of FAA Order JO 7400.11, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 on an annual basis. This document proposes to amend the current version of that order, FAA Order JO 7400.11K, dated August 4, 2025, and effective September 15, 2025. These updates would be published in the next update to FAA Order JO 7400.11. FAA Order JO 7400.11K, which lists Class A, B, C, D, and E airspace areas, air traffic service routes, and reporting points, is publicly available as listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

The Proposal

The FAA is proposing an amendment to 14 CFR part 71 that would modify the Class D airspace, Class E surface airspace, and Class E airspace extending upward from 700 ft. above the surface, and revoke the Class E airspace designated as an extension to Class D and Class E surface areas at Fort Knox, KY, due to a biennial airspace review due to the decommissioning of the Godman NDB.

For the Godman AAF, Fort Knox, KY, Class D airspace, the proposal would: (1) increase the radius from 3.9 miles to 4.6 miles; (2) update the geographic coordinates of the airport to coincide with the FAA's aeronautical database; and (3) remove the unnecessary language, ''(previously called Airport/Facility Directory)'' from the airspace legal description.

For the Godman AAF Class E surface area, the proposal would: (1) increase the radius from 3.9 miles to 4.6 miles; (2) update the geographic coordinates of the airport to coincide with the FAA's aeronautical database; and (3) remove the unnecessary language, ''(previously called Airport/Facility Directory)'' from the airspace legal description.

For the Godman AAF Class E airspace designated as an extension to Class D and Class E surface areas, the proposal would revoke the airspace as it is no longer required.

For the Godman AAF Class E airspace extending upward from 700 ft. above the surface, the proposal would: (1) increase the radius from 6.3-miles to 7 miles; (2) remove the Godman NDB and associated extension from the airspace legal description as the NDB has been decommissioned and the extension is no longer required; and (3) update the geographic coordinates of the airport to coincide with the FAA's aeronautical database.

Regulatory Notices and Analyses

The FAA has determined that this proposed regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore: (1) is not a ''significant regulatory action'' under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a ''significant

rule'' under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a regulatory evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this proposed rule, when promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Environmental Review

This proposal will be subject to an environmental analysis in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1G, ''FAA National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures'' prior to any FAA final regulatory action.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

■ 1. The authority citation for 14 CFR part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(f), 106(g), 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959–1963 Comp., p. 389.

§ 71.1 [Amended]

■ 2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of FAA Order JO 7400.11K, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 4, 2025, and effective September 15, 2025, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 5000 Class D Airspace.

* * * * *

ASO KY D Fort Knox, KY [Amended]

Godman AAF, KY

(Lat. 37°54′25″ N, long. 085°58′19″ W)

That airspace extending upward from the surface to and including 3,300 feet MSL within a 4.6-mile radius of Godman AAF. This Class D airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The effective dates and times will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

* * * * *

Paragraph 6002 Class E Airspace Areas Designated as Surface Areas.

* * * * *

ASO KY E2 Fort Knox, KY [Amended]

Godman AAF, KY

(Lat. 37°54′25″ N, long. 085°58′19″ W)

Within a 4.6-mile radius of Godman AAF. This Class E airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The effective dates and times will thereafter be continuously published in the Chart Supplement.

* * * * *

Paragraph 6004 Class E Airspace Areas Designated as an Extension to a Class D or Class E Surface Area.

* * * * *

ASO KY E4 Fort Knox, KY [Removed]

* * * * *

Paragraph 6005 Class E Airspace Areas Extending Upward From 700 Feet or More Above the Surface of the Earth.

* * * * *

ASO KY E5 Fort Knox, KY [Amended]

Godman AAF, KY

(Lat. 37°54′25″ N, long. 085°58′19″ W)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 7-mile radius of Godman AAF.

* * * * *

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, on March 12, 2026.

Courtney E. Johns,

Acting Manager, Operations Support Group, ATO Central Service Center.

[FR Doc. 2026–05097 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

17 CFR Chapter I

RIN 3038–AF65

Prediction Markets

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (Commission or CFTC) is issuing this Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and seeking public comment regarding event contract derivatives traded on markets commonly referred to as ''prediction markets.'' In particular, the Commission is seeking information and public comment on statutory core principles and Commission regulations that apply to prediction markets, the types of event contracts that may be prohibited as contrary to the public interest, cost-benefit considerations related to prediction markets, and other topics. The Commission may use the information and comments received from this Notice to inform potential future agency action, such as rulemaking, with respect to prediction markets.

DATES: Comments must be in writing and received by April 30, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by ''Prediction Markets'' and RIN 3038–AF65, by any of the following methods:

- *CFTC Comments Portal: https://comments.cftc.gov.* Select the ''Submit Comments'' link for this release and follow the instructions on the Public Comment Form.
- *Mail:* Send to Christopher Kirkpatrick, Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.
- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Follow the same instructions as for Mail, above.

Please submit your comments using only one of these methods. Submissions through the CFTC Comments Portal are encouraged.

All comments must be submitted in English, or if not, accompanied by an English translation. Comments will be posted as received to *https://comments.cftc.gov.* You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. If you wish the Commission to consider information that you believe is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a petition for confidential treatment of the exempt information may be submitted according to the procedures established in § 145.9 of the Commission's regulations.[1]

The Commission reserves the right, but shall have no obligation, to review, pre-screen, filter, redact, refuse or remove any or all of your submission from *https://comments.cftc.gov* that it may deem to be inappropriate for publication, such as obscene language. All submissions that have been redacted or removed that contain comments on the merits of the rulemaking will be retained in the public comment file and will be considered as required under the Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws, and may be accessible under FOIA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Fajfar, Senior Assistant General Counsel, 202–418–6636, *mfajfar@cftc.gov,* Office of the General Counsel, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1151 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581.

[1] 17 CFR 145.9.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Background

A. Prediction Markets

On prediction markets, participants buy and sell contracts based on whether events stated in the contracts occur. Prediction markets ''function as information aggregation vehicles'' because the contract prices will reflect the market participants' aggregate beliefs regarding whether the events will occur.[2]

As discussed further below, the contracts traded on prediction markets may fall within the definition in the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) of the term ''swap.'' [3] The contracts may also be contracts for the future delivery of a commodity (futures contracts) that are covered by the CEA.[4] A prediction market which offers swaps or futures contracts for trading by the general public must register with the CFTC as a designated contract market (DCM), which the Commission is charged with overseeing.[5] Since the early 1990s, parties have sought Commission staff guidance regarding prediction markets, and the Commission first designated a prediction market as a DCM in February 2004.[6]

While the term ''event contract'' is not a defined term in the CEA or the CFTC's regulations thereunder, the CFTC has used this term to describe derivative contracts, typically with a binary payoff structure, based on the outcome of an underlying occurrence or event since at least 2008.[7] In this document, the term ''prediction market'' refers to a CFTC-registered DCM or swap execution facility (SEF) that offers event contracts for trading.[8]

Since 2021, the Commission has observed a significant increase in the number of event contracts listed for trading on prediction markets, as well as in the diversity of occurrences and events underlying such contracts.[9] The Commission has also received recent applications for DCM registration, and expressions of interest regarding DCM registration, from entities that have indicated that they are interested primarily, or exclusively, in operating prediction markets.[10]

As noted above, event contracts can fall within multiple subsections of the CEA's definition of ''swap.'' CEA section 1a(47)(A)(ii) defines ''swap'' to include ''any agreement, contract, or transaction . . . that provides for any purchase, sale, payment, or delivery (other than a dividend on an equity security) that is dependent on the occurrence, nonoccurrence, or the extent of the occurrence of an event or contingency associated with a potential financial, economic, or commercial consequence.'' [11] Also, CEA section 1a(47)(A)(i) defines the term ''swap'' to include ''any agreement, contract, or transaction . . . that is a put, call, cap, floor, collar, or similar option of any kind that is for the purchase or sale, or based on the value, of 1 or more interest or other rates, currencies, commodities, securities, instruments of indebtedness, indices, quantitative measures, or other financial or economic interests or property of any kind.'' [12] Event contracts traded as swaps under CEA section 1a(47)(A)(i) are sometimes referred to as binary options, a type of swap which is an ''option whose payoff is either a fixed amount or zero.'' [13]

Prediction markets can also list event contracts for trading as futures contracts.[14] Since futures contracts are specifically excluded from the statutory definition of ''swap,'' these event contracts are not swaps.[15]

Although the event contracts listed on CFTC-registered DCMs and SEFs are swaps or futures contracts subject to the jurisdiction of the CFTC,[16] other event contracts referencing events associated with potential financial, economic or commercial consequences may be security-based swaps or other instruments subject to the jurisdiction of the SEC.[17]

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[2] *See* Concept Release on Appropriate Regulatory Treatment of Event Contracts, 73 FR 25669, 25669 (May 7, 2008) (2008 Concept Release).

[3] *See* CEA section 1a(47), 7 U.S.C. 1a(47).

[4] *See* CEA section 2a(1)(A), 7 U.S.C. 2(a)(1)(A).

[5] *See Id.,* which expressly extends the CFTC's ''exclusive jurisdiction'' to encompass ''transactions involving swaps or contracts of sale of a commodity for future delivery . . . traded or executed on a contract market designated pursuant to [CEA section 5, 7 U.S.C. 7] . . . .'' The CFTC shares jurisdiction over mixed swaps and security futures with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the SEC has sole jurisdiction over security-based swaps. *See* section 1a(44) of the CEA, 7 U.S.C. 1a(44) and sections 3(a)(55) and 3(a)(68) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Exchange Act), 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(55) and 78c(a)(68). *See also* section 712(d)(1) of Title VII of the Wall Street Transparency and Accountability Act of 2010 (Dodd-Frank Act) (directing the CFTC and SEC to undertake joint rulemaking on covered topics).

[6] *See* CFTC Order of Designation for HedgeStreet, Inc. (Feb. 20, 2004), available at *https://www.cftc.gov/sites/default/files/opa/press04/opa4894-04.htm.* The Commission's Division of Market Oversight issued staff no-action positions to two academic institutions. The no-action positions provide that, subject to specified terms, staff will not recommend enforcement action for operating prediction markets, without registration as a DCM, swap execution facility, or foreign board of trade, that offer trading in political and economic indicator event contracts for academic purposes. *See* CFTC Staff Letter No. 93–66 issued to the University of Iowa (June 18, 1993), available at *https://www.cftc.gov/sites/default/files/idc/groups/public/@lrlettergeneral/documents/letter/93-66.pdf.* This no-action position superseded a more limited no-action position issued in 1992. *See also* CFTC Staff Letter No. 14–130 issued to Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (Oct. 29, 2014), available at *https://www.cftc.gov/csl/14-130/download.*

[7] *See* 2008 Concept Release. *See also* Contracts & Products: Event Contracts, available at *https://www.cftc.gov/IndustryOversight/ContractsProducts/index.htm.*

[8] In addition to DCMs, a SEF may make any swap, including an event contract, available for trading. *See* CEA section 5h, 7 U.S.C. 7b–3. However, swap trading on a SEF is not available to the general public, but rather only to institutional investors within the definition of ''eligible contract participant'' in CEA section 1a(18), 7 U.S.C. 1a(18).

[9] From 2006–2020, DCMs listed for trading an average of approximately five event contracts per year. In 2021, this number increased to 131, and the number of newly-listed event contracts per year remained at a similar level until 2025, when DCMs certified approximately 1,600 event contracts for listing for trading. These event contracts are based on a wide variety of financial indices, economic indicators, weather events, political events, international events, scientific and cultural events, current events, and sporting events. A list of event contracts certified for listing is available on the CFTC's website. *See https://www.cftc.gov/IndustryOversight/IndustryFilings/TradingOrganizationProducts?Status=Certified&Category=Event.*

[10] As of March 2026, Commission staff are reviewing several pending applications for DCM designation from entities with a stated interest in operating prediction markets. Commission staff have received multiple additional inquiries from other entities indicating an interest in applying for DCM registration in order to operate prediction markets.

[11] 7 U.S.C. 1a(47)(A)(ii).

[12] 7 U.S.C. 1a(47)(A)(i).

[13] *See* CFTC Futures Glossary, available at *https://www.cftc.gov/LearnAndProtect/AdvisoriesAndArticles/CFTCGlossary/index.htm#B.*

[14] *See* CEA section 2a(1)(A), 7 U.S.C. 2(a)(1)(A). A list of event contracts certified for listing as futures contracts is available on the CFTC's website. *See https://www.cftc.gov/IndustryOversight/IndustryFilings/TradingOrganizationProducts?Type=Future&Category=Event.*

[15] CEA section 1a(47)(B), 7 U.S.C. 1a(47)(B), provides that ''[t]he term 'swap' does not include—(i) any contract of sale of a commodity for future delivery (or option on such contract) . . . .''

[16] *See supra,* note 5.

[17] *See* 7 U.S.C. 1a(47)(B) (providing ''exclusions'' from the definition of ''swap'' under the CEA, including for securities such as security based-swaps, certain options, and debt securities); *see also, e.g.,* 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(68)(A) (defining ''security-based swap'' under the Exchange Act).

B. Statutory and Regulatory Requirements

A prediction market that seeks to list event contracts for trading, or make event contracts available for clearing, must comply with the substantive and procedural requirements that apply, more generally, to the listing for trading, or making available for clearing, of derivative contracts.[18] Further, a prediction market is subject to statutory requirements to only list or permit trading in derivative contracts that are not readily susceptible to manipulation;[19] to enforce compliance with contract terms and conditions;[20] and to monitor trading on the exchange in order to prevent manipulation, price distortion, and disruption of the settlement process through market surveillance, compliance, and enforcement practices and procedures.[21]

In addition to the more generally applicable requirements to which registered entities are subject when listing derivative contracts for trading or making such contracts available for clearing, CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C) grants the Commission the authority to prohibit prediction markets from listing for trading or making available for clearing particular types of event contracts, if the Commission determines that such contracts are contrary to the public interest.[22]

Specifically, CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)(i) provides that, ''[i]n connection with the listing of agreements, contracts, transactions, or swaps in excluded commodities[23] that are based upon the occurrence, extent of an occurrence, or contingency (other than a change in the price, rate, value, or levels of a commodity described in [CEA] section la(2)(i)),[24] by a [DCM] or [SEF], the Commission may determine that such agreements, contracts, or transactions are contrary to the public interest if the agreements, contracts, or transactions involve—(I) activity that is unlawful under any Federal or State law; (II) terrorism; (III) assassination; (IV) war; (V) gaming; or (VI) other similar activity determined by the Commission, by rule or regulation, to be contrary to the public interest.'' [25]

In 2011, the Commission adopted final rules under part 40 of the Commission's regulations, including new Regulation 40.11.[26] The Commission adopted Regulation 40.11 to implement CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C) as part of broader changes to the Commission's part 40 regulations.[27]

C. Past Commission Notices Regarding Prediction Markets

In 2008, the Commission published the 2008 Concept Release, requesting input from the public on the appropriate regulatory treatment of prediction markets.[28] The 2008 Concept Release was prompted by the Commission's receipt of requests for guidance related to the application of the CEA to prediction markets.[29] The Commission ultimately did not take further action at that time.

In 2024, the Commission proposed rules to further specify the types of event contracts that fall within the scope of CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C) and are contrary to the public interest.[30] In 2026, the Commission withdrew the proposed rules to reconsider them ''in light of various forms of state regulatory actions and litigation concerning the Commission's exclusive jurisdiction over event contract derivatives listed on [DCMs] and the proper application of the swap and excluded commodity definitions under the [CEA].'' [31]

Given that the number of applications for DCM registration has more than doubled over the past year, largely from entities that are interested primarily, or exclusively, in operating prediction markets, the Commission is issuing this Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to seek information about significant issues that have come to light since the 2024 proposal. The comments provided will assist the Commission in the formulation of a potential future agency action, including rulemaking, with respect to prediction markets.

II. Questions and Request for Comment

In responding to each of the following questions, please provide a detailed response, including the rationale for such response, cost and benefit considerations, and relevant supporting information, such as data, or studies when available. The Commission encourages commenters to include the assigned topic number of the specific request for comment in their submitted responses to facilitate the review of public comments by Commission staff.

A. Core Principles and Commission Regulations

1. What factors should the Commission consider in determining whether to provide guidance or amend its regulations regarding how the DCM Core Principles in CEA section 5(d) apply to prediction markets? [32] Are there specific points on which the Commission should provide guidance or

[18] For example, Regulation 40.2, 17 CFR 40.2, sets forth the general process by which a DCM or SEF may list a new derivative contract for trading by providing the Commission with a written certification. *See also infra,* note 27.

[19] *See* Core Principle 3 for DCMs, CEA section 5(d)(3), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(3), and Core Principle 3 for SEFs, CEA section 5h(f)(3), 7 U.S.C. 7b–3(f)(3).

[20] *See* Core Principle 2 for DCMs, CEA section 5(d)(2), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(2), and Core Principle 2 for SEFs, CEA section 5h(f)(2), 7 U.S.C. 7b–3(f)(2).

[21] *See* Core Principle 4 for DCMs, CEA section 5(d)(4), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(4), and Core Principle 4 for SEFs, CEA section 5h(f)(4), 7 U.S.C. 7b–3(f)(4).

[22] 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(5)(C).

[23] The term ''excluded commodity'' is defined in CEA section 1a(19), 7 U.S.C. 1a(19), as: ''(i) an interest rate, exchange rate, currency, security, security index, credit risk or measure, debt or equity instrument, index or measure of inflation, or other macroeconomic index or measure; (ii) any other rate, differential, index, or measure of economic or commercial risk return, or value that is—(I) not based in substantial part on the value of a narrow group of commodities not described in clause (i); or (II) based solely on one or more commodities that have no cash market; (iii) any economic or commercial index based on prices, rates, values, or levels that are not within the control of any party to the relevant contract, agreement, or transaction; or (iv) an occurrence, extent of an occurrence, or contingency (other than a change in the price, rate, value, or level of a commodity not described in clause (i)) that is—(I) beyond the control of the parties to the relevant contract, agreement, or transaction; and (II) associated with a financial, commercial, or economic consequence.''

[24] There is no ''section 1a(2)(i)'' in the CEA. The Commission believes that the reference in CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)(i) to ''section 1a(2)(i)'' is a typographical or drafting error.

[25] 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(5)(C)(i). CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)(ii), 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(5)(C)(ii), further provides that ''[n]o agreement, contract or transaction determined by the Commission to be contrary to the public interest under clause (i) may be listed or made available for clearing or trading on or through a registered entity.''

[26] Provisions Common to Registered Entities, 76 FR 44776 (July 27, 2011).

[27] Part 40 of the Commission's regulations, more generally, implements the contract and rule submission requirements for registered entities set forth in CEA section 5c(c). For example, Regulation 40.2 sets forth the general process by which a DCM or SEF may list a new derivative contract for trading by providing the Commission with a written certification—a ''self-certification''—that the contract complies with the CEA, including the CFTC's regulations thereunder. 17 CFR 40.2; *see also* CEA section 5c(c)(1), 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(1). The Commission must receive the DCM's or SEF's self-certified submission at least one business day before the contract's listing. 17 CFR 40.2(a)(2). Regulation 40.3 sets forth the general process by which a DCM or SEF may elect voluntarily to seek prior Commission approval of a derivative contract that the DCM or SEF seeks to list for trading. 17 CFR 40.3; *see also* CEA sections 5c(c)(4)–(5), 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(4)–(5). Amendments to an existing derivative contract also must be submitted to the Commission either by way of self-certification or for prior Commission approval. 17 CFR 40.5, 40.6.

[28] *See supra,* note 2.

[29] Between 1992 and 2008, CFTC-registered exchanges listed for trading event contracts involving interests such as regional insured property losses, the count of bankruptcies, temperature volatilities, corporate mergers, and corporate credit events. 2008 Concept Release, 73 FR at 25671.

[30] Event Contracts; Proposed Rule, 89 FR 48968 (June 10, 2024).

[31] Event Contracts; Withdrawal of Proposed Regulatory Action, 91 FR 5386 (Feb. 6, 2026).

[32] 7 U.S.C. 7(d).

adopt rule amendments? Why or why not?

2. With respect to the following DCM Core Principles, what factors are relevant to prediction markets?

a. Core Principle 2 states that a DCM ''shall establish, monitor, and enforce compliance with the rules of the [DCM], including—(i) access requirements; . . . and (iii) rules prohibiting abusive trade practices.'' [33] Regulation 38.151, adopted under this core principle, requires that a DCM provide ''impartial access to its markets and services, including . . . [a]ccess criteria that are impartial, transparent, and applied in a non-discriminatory manner.'' [34] What aspects of prediction markets affect how a DCM provides impartial access and prohibits abusive trade practices? Are there potential barriers to impartial access that the Commission should consider? Are there particular risks of abusive trading?

b. Core Principle 2 also requires a DCM to ''establish, monitor, and enforce compliance with . . . the terms and conditions of'' contracts traded on the DCM.[35] In this regard, what factors should the Commission consider regarding a DCM's rules related to resolution criteria for event contracts? For example, if there is a dispute regarding how an event contract is resolved or how the trigger event for an event contract is determined (such as a dispute regarding whether an event underlying a contract has occurred), what factors should the Commission consider in setting expectations for DCMs to have rules to resolve the dispute? Are dispute resolution procedures for other types of swaps, such as credit default swaps, helpful precedents? Also, what considerations under Core Principle 14, which requires a DCM to have ''rules regarding, and provide facilities for alternative dispute resolution as appropriate for, market participants and any market intermediaries,'' [36] are relevant in this regard?

c. Core Principle 3 states that a DCM may list ''only contracts that are not readily susceptible to manipulation.'' [37] How should a determination of whether an event contract is ''readily susceptible to manipulation'' be made? What factors should be considered? Are there particular aspects of event contracts that make this determination different from the determination with respect to other listed contracts? Do any existing rules for other types of exchanges and platforms (*i.e.,* not prediction markets) limit or mitigate the potential for manipulation? If so, how and to what extent are these rules appropriate as requirements for prediction markets? See also the questions regarding inside information in part II.E. below.

d. Core Principle 4 states that a DCM ''shall have the capacity and responsibility to prevent manipulation, price distortion, and disruptions of the delivery or cash-settlement process through market surveillance, compliance, and enforcement practices and procedures.'' [38] Do any aspects of prediction markets pose challenges to compliance with this Core Principle or, on the other hand, facilitate compliance? Are there market surveillance, compliance, or enforcement practices on which the Commission should focus? Are there existing surveillance practices for detecting suspicious activity in other types of exchanges and platforms that would be useful in prediction markets?

e. Core Principle 5 states that a DCM shall, for each contract, adopt position limitations or position accountability for speculators as is necessary and appropriate to ''reduce the potential threat of market manipulation or congestion.'' [39] What factors should the Commission expect a DCM to consider in adopting position limitations or position accountability for prediction markets? For example, what factors should the Commission consider regarding how position limits across similar event contracts should be aggregated (*e.g.,* whether there is the same underlying reference, or whether there are similar references)? Are there reasons why event contracts, as compared to other swaps and futures contracts, should, or should not, be subject to different position limitations or position accountability? Are existing position limitation or position accountability provisions helpful as precedent for determining how prediction markets should implement such measures?

f. Core Principle 11 requires that a DCM have ''rules and procedures for ensuring the financial integrity of transactions entered into on or through facilities of the [DCM] (including the clearance and settlement of the transactions with a derivatives clearing organization [(DCO)]); and rules to ensure the financial integrity of any [intermediary] and the protection of customer funds.'' [40] Currently, event contracts are fully collateralized. What factors should the Commission consider in determining whether prediction markets should be permitted to offer trading on margin, and should such factors be different for retail as opposed to institutional customers? If margin is provided to retail customers, what disclosure, if any, should the Commission consider to ensure that customers are fully informed of the consequences and potential losses resulting from the customer's failure to meet margin requirements? If prediction markets are allowed to offer trading on margin, what factors should be involved in the calculation of initial margin, such as concentration, or liquidity (*i.e.,* the cost to the DCM to liquidate a defaulting member's portfolio)? What methods should be involved, such as a flat percentage rate or a statistical analysis? Given that some event contracts resolve quickly and others may not resolve for years, what time series of data and other time period considerations should be involved when calibrating appropriate margin? What factors should be involved in considering other issues such as whether daily variation margin should be required, the time intervals for collecting margin, and the instruments permitted for posting initial margin and exchanging variation margin? What products should be eligible for cross-margin with event contracts if trading on margin is allowed? See also question 3.c. regarding the implications of margin trading for DCOs.

g. Core Principle 20 requires a DCM to ''establish and maintain a program of risk analysis and oversight to identify and minimize sources of operational risk, through the development of appropriate controls and procedures, and the development of automated systems, that are reliable, secure, and have adequate scalable capacity.'' [41] What sources of operational risk related to prediction markets should the Commission consider? What operational risk analysis and other measures do prediction markets currently employ? Are there challenges to the reliability, security or scalable capacity of the systems used by prediction markets?

h. In general under the DCM Core Principles, what factors should the Commission consider with respect to blockchain-based prediction markets? Are there challenges or advantages in applying existing regulations and guidance to blockchain-based prediction

[33] CEA section 5(d)(2), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(2).

[34] 17 CFR 38.151.

[35] CEA section 5(d)(2)(A)(ii), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(2)(A)(ii).

[36] CEA section 5(d)(14), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(14).

[37] CEA section 5(d)(3), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(3).

[38] CEA section 5(d)(4), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(4).

[39] CEA section 5(d)(5), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(5).

[40] CEA section 5(d)(11), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(11) (formatting modified).

[41] CEA section 5(d)(20), 7 U.S.C. 7(d)(20).

markets? Which areas, if any, would benefit from Commission guidance or rule amendments for blockchain-based prediction markets?

3. Are there aspects of the clearing of event contracts that the Commission should consider in applying the DCO Core Principles in CEA section 5b(c)(2)?[42] Are there specific points on which the Commission should provide guidance or adopt rule amendments? If so, why?

a. The following DCO Core Principles may be relevant in this regard: (C) participant and product eligibility, (D) risk management, (H) rule enforcement, and (I) system safeguards.[43] What factors should the Commission consider in applying these Core Principles?

b. Are there relevant differences in how the Core Principles and underlying regulations for DCMs and DCOs apply to prediction markets? If so, how should the differences factor into the Commission's consideration of these issues?

c. What implications for DCOs should the Commission consider if event contracts were traded on prediction markets on margin? Are there any issues arising with respect to, for example, the requirements in DCO Core Principle D that ''(iv) . . . [t]he margin required from each member and participant of a [DCO] shall be sufficient to cover potential exposures in normal market conditions'' and ''(v) . . . [e]ach model and parameter used in setting margin requirements under clause (iv) shall be—(I) risk-based; and (II) reviewed on a regular basis''?[44] What factors should the Commission consider regarding the clearing silo, if any, that would be appropriate for event contracts? What factors should the Commission consider regarding whether event contracts should be eligible for margin credit or cross margin, both on DCOs, and when cross-margined with securities exchanges? See also question 2.f. regarding margin considerations for DCMs.

4. Institutional traders (that is, parties that are eligible contract participants) may enter into event contracts on prediction markets registered as SEFs, which are subject to Core Principles in CEA section 5h(f).[45] Are there aspects of prediction markets that the Commission should consider in applying these Core Principles? How is trading on prediction markets by institutional traders the same, or different from, retail trading on prediction markets? How would or does prediction market trading on DCMs and SEFs impact liquidity in both types of exchanges? What factors should the Commission consider in determining whether any public disclosure requirements should apply to prediction market trading on SEFs? For example, would public disclosure help to mitigate, or exacerbate, adverse selection? Are there specific points on which the Commission should provide guidance or adopt rule amendments? If so, why?

5. What factors should the Commission consider in determining whether to provide guidance or amend any other of its regulations with respect to the listing, trading, and clearing of event contracts on prediction markets?

a. CEA section 2(a)(13) authorizes the Commission ''to make swap transaction and pricing data available to the public in such form and at such times as the Commission determines appropriate to enhance price discovery.''[46] CEA section 2(a)(13)(G) states that each swap ''shall be reported to a registered swap data repository.''[47] What factors should the Commission consider in applying these provisions to prediction markets listing event contracts as swaps? Are there aspects of event contract swaps that hinder or facilitate their reporting to a swap data repository or the public availability of the relevant transaction and pricing data? To what extent should such reporting and data availability be standardized in order, for example, to facilitate Commission analysis and to detect potential cross-market activity from a risk or manipulation perspective? Are public identifiers (*e.g.,* CUSIP/ISIN/LEI)[48] appropriate for event contracts? How does such reporting and data availability relate to enhanced price discovery?

b. CEA section 4c(a)(1) and (2)(A) provide that it is unlawful to enter into a transaction involving a futures contract, option thereon, or swap, if the transaction is a pre-arranged or noncompetitive trade, or a wash sale.[49] What factors should the Commission consider in applying these provisions to prediction markets? Are there aspects of prediction markets that make them more or less susceptible to pre-arranged or noncompetitive trades, or wash sales?

c. CEA section 4c(a)(5) provides that it is unlawful to engage, on any CFTC-registered entity, in disruptive trading practices.[50] What factors should the Commission consider in applying this provision to prediction markets? Are there aspects of prediction markets that make them more or less susceptible to disruptive trading practices?

6. With respect to any rule changes that the Commission may propose for the foregoing reasons, what are the relevant considerations of costs and benefits?[51] What less costly alternatives should the Commission consider? Please provide any relevant specific information, data, or studies regarding the costs and benefits of such regulations that you may have.

B. Public Interest

7. As described above, CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C) provides for the Commission to make a determination that event contracts are ''contrary to the public interest'' if the event contracts involve any of five listed activities or ''other similar activity determined by the Commission, by rule or regulation, to be contrary to the public interest.''[52] In general, what factors should the Commission consider in making a public interest determination under this section? (Public interest factors specific to the five listed activities are discussed in part II.C., below, in connection with those activities.)

8. The public interests underlying the CEA are described in CEA section 3(a), which states that ''[t]he transactions subject to [the CEA] . . . are affected with a national public interest by providing a means for managing and assuming price risks, discovering prices, or disseminating pricing information through trading in liquid, fair and financially secure trading facilities.''[53] Further, CEA section 3(b) provides that in order to foster the public interests described in subsection (a), the

[42] 7 U.S.C. 7a–1(c)(2).

[43] CEA sections 5b(c)(2)(C), (D), (H), (I), 7 U.S.C. 7a–1(c)(2)(C), (D), (H), (I).

[44] CEA section 5b(c)(2)(D), 7 U.S.C. 7a–1(c)(2)(D).

[45] 7 U.S.C. 7b–3(f). The term ''eligible contract participant'' is defined in CEA section 1a(18), 7 U.S.C. 1a(18).

[46] 7 U.S.C. 2(a)(13)(B); *see also* 17 CFR part 43 and 17 CFR part 45.

[47] 7 U.S.C. 2(a)(13)(G).

[48] A CUSIP number is an identifier for financial instruments assigned by the Committee on Uniform Securities Identification Procedures. An International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) is an identifier used globally. A legal entity identifier (LEI) is assigned through the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation.

[49] 7 U.S.C. 6c(a)(1) and (2)(A). *See also* Regulation 1.38(a), 17 CFR 1.38(a) (competitive execution requirement).

[50] 7 U.S.C. 6c(a)(5).

[51] CEA section 15(a) requires that the Commission, before it promulgates a regulation under the CEA, consider the costs and benefits of its action. 7 U.S.C. 19(a). Further, CEA section 15(a)(2) states that ''[t]he costs and benefits of the proposed Commission action shall be evaluated in light of—(A) considerations of protection of market participants and the public; (B) considerations of the efficiency, competitiveness, and financial integrity of futures markets; (C) considerations of price discovery; (D) considerations of sound risk management practices; and (E) other public interest considerations.'' 7 U.S.C. 19(a)(2). In responding to this question, please consider these five considerations.

[52] 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(5)(C).

[53] 7 U.S.C. 5(a).

purposes of the CEA include ''to deter and prevent price manipulation or any other disruptions to market integrity; to ensure the financial integrity of all transactions subject to [the CEA] and the avoidance of systemic risk; to protect all market participants from fraudulent or other abusive sales practices and misuses of customer assets; and to promote responsible innovation and fair competition among [DCMs], other markets and market participants.'' [54] How should the public interests set out in CEA section 3 inform the Commission's public interest determination under CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)?

9. Under a past version of the CEA that was repealed in 2000, the Commission applied an ''economic purpose'' test as part of determining whether a DCM could list a contract for trading.[55] Are there any elements of the former ''economic purpose'' test that should or should not be applied in the Commission's public interest determination under CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)?

10. What role do event contracts play in ''managing and assuming price risks, discovering prices, or disseminating pricing information'' as contemplated by CEA section 3(a)? How are event contracts used in hedging, which is one aspect of managing price risks? How should the Commission incorporate considerations of hedging, price risk, price discovery, and price dissemination in its public interest determination under CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)?

11. CEA section 3(b) lists several purposes of the CEA, including to prevent price manipulation, to protect all market participants from fraudulent or other abusive sales practices, and to promote responsible innovation and fair competition.[56] What factors should the Commission consider in its effort to fulfill these purposes with respect to prediction markets? Is there any potential conflict between these purposes, and if so, how should they be balanced?

12. How do event contracts compare to, or substitute for, insurance contracts? Should the liquidity and availability of insurance with respect to a particular event be a factor in the Commission's public interest determination?

13. Why, or why not, would it be appropriate for the Commission to propose any changes to its regulations related to its public interest determination?

14. If the Commission were to propose any changes to its regulations related to its public interest determination, what considerations of costs and benefits would be relevant to those changes? What less costly alternatives should the Commission consider? Please provide any relevant specific information, data, or studies that you may have regarding the costs and benefits of such rule changes.

C. Activities Listed in CEA Section 5c(c)(5)(C)

15. CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C) lists five activities, and provides that if an event contract involves any such activity, the Commission may determine that the event contract is contrary to the public interest. What factors should the Commission consider in determining the scope of these five listed activities? What aspects of these activities would be relevant to the Commission's public interest determination?

16. The first listed activity is an ''activity that is unlawful under any Federal or State law.'' What types of event contracts could potentially involve such activity? What steps should the Commission appropriately take in order to determine which State laws may be involved in a particular event contract? What steps should the Commission appropriately take in order to determine which Federal laws, such as the Exchange Act, may be involved in a particular event contract? If an event contract involves an activity that is unlawful under some State laws, but not others, how should this conflict be resolved? What public interest factors should the Commission consider for event contracts involving unlawful activity?

17. The second and third listed activities are terrorism and assassination. Are the meanings of these terms self-evident, or are there any ambiguities that the Commission should consider? Are specific definitions in other contexts, such as insurance, helpful? Would event contracts involving cyberterrorism be covered by the terrorism provision, and if so, what factors distinguish cyberterrorism from other cyber attacks? What public interest factors should the Commission consider for event contracts involving terrorism or assassination?

18. The fourth activity is war. Does this activity encompass all military actions, or are there military actions that do not constitute war? What factors distinguish war from, for example, civil unrest? What factors distinguish war from political actions, or other actions as part of international relations? Are specific definitions in other contexts, such as insurance, helpful? What public interest factors should the Commission consider for event contracts involving war?

19. The fifth activity is gaming. What factors should the Commission consider in determining the scope and public interest implications of this activity?

a. What sources should inform the Commission's determination of the scope of the term ''gaming''? For example, is gaming synonymous with, or more or less extensive than, the scope of activities covered by State and Federal gambling statutes? Are there characteristics—such as an entertainment purpose, or an element of chance—that distinguish gaming from other activities?

b. In this regard, how should the Commission distinguish between various types of contests? For example, should a sports competition be treated differently than an award competition, and if so, what factors support this distinction? What other types of contests should or should not be considered to be gaming?

c. What aspects of event contracts involving gaming should the Commission consider in a public interest determination? For these event contracts, are there any challenges to the deterrence of manipulation and protection from abusive sales practices contemplated by CEA section 3(b)? If so, how could these challenges be mitigated? How are the responsible innovation and fair competition goals in CEA section 3(b) served by event contracts involving gaming?

d. How should the Commission factor into its public interest determination the characteristics of market participants that trade event contracts involving gaming? For example, do these market participants tend to be younger than those trading other financial instruments, and if so, how should this inform the Commission's consideration?

e. What aspects of responsible gaming standards, such as self-exclusion programs, monetary or time limits, or advertising limits, disclaimers, or warnings, should the Commission consider in its public interest determination?

f. How do the various types of event contract that involve gaming differ from each other? How are these differences relevant to the Commission's public interest determination?

20. CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)(i)(VI) provides that the Commission may determine that an event contract is contrary to the public interest if it involves another ''similar activity determined by the Commission, by rule or regulation, to be contrary to the

[54] 7 U.S.C. 5(b).

[55] *See* 2008 Concept Release, 73 FR at 25672.

[56] 7 U.S.C. 5(b).

public interest.'' [57] What factors should the Commission consider in determining whether an activity is similar to the activities listed in CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)? Are there any examples of existing event contracts involving potentially similar activities that should be a factor in the Commission's determination on this issue? Are there any differences in how the public interest determination should be applied to such similar activities, as compared to the listed activities?

21. Why, or why not, would it be appropriate for the Commission to propose any changes to its regulations related to the activities listed in CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)?

22. If the Commission were to propose any changes to its regulations related to the activities listed in CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C), what considerations of costs and benefits would be relevant to those changes? What less costly alternatives should the Commission consider? Please provide any relevant specific information, data, or studies that you may have regarding the costs and benefits of such regulations or rule changes.

D. Procedural Aspects of CEA Section 5c(c)(5)(C)

23. CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)(i) provides that the Commission may make a public interest determination ''[i]n connection with the listing'' of event contracts by prediction markets.[58] What aspects of the prediction market listing process are relevant to deciding at what point in the listing process the public interest determination could occur? What factors should inform the Commission's interpretation of what occurs ''[i]n connection with the listing'' by a prediction market of an event contract? For example, why would it be appropriate, or not, for the Commission to make a public interest determination when a listing application is reasonably expected, but not yet filed?

24. What factors should inform the Commission's interpretation of whether CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C) contemplates that elements of a public interest determination could be made with respect to a category of event contracts, rather than a specific event contract? For example, what factors should the Commission consider in determining whether to provide guidance regarding how it expects to make any public interest determination? Would it be useful for the Commission to provide illustrative examples of event contracts that do, or do not, involve the listed activities? Why or why not?

25. CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)(i) provides that the Commission may make a public interest determination for event contracts that ''involve'' the listed activities.[59] What elements are relevant to determining what event contracts ''involve''? What factors should inform the Commission's interpretation of when event contracts are sufficiently tied to a listed activity in order to say that the event contracts ''involve'' that activity?

26. CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)(iv) provides that the Commission must take final action regarding its public interest determination ''not later than 90 days from the commencement of [the Commission's] review unless the party seeking to offer the contract or swap agrees to an extension.'' [60] How should this time limit inform the Commission's procedure for making public interest determinations? Considering this limitation, what steps would be appropriate, or not, for the Commission to take prior to making its determination?

27. Why, or why not, would it be appropriate for the Commission to propose any changes to its regulations related to procedures under CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C)?

28. If the Commission were to propose any changes to its regulations related to procedures under CEA section 5c(c)(5)(C), what considerations of costs and benefits would be relevant to those changes? What less costly alternatives should the Commission consider? Please provide any relevant specific information, data, or studies that you may have regarding the costs and benefits of such regulations or rule changes.

E. Inside Information

29. The price on a prediction market could be viewed as an indication of how likely the underlying event is to occur. The price may be a more reliable indicator of probability if the people trading on the prediction market have some insight into how likely the underlying event is to occur. On the other hand, trading by these informed participants may lead to manipulation, unfairness, and the misuse of inside information. Is there some public interest utility if people with an asymmetric information advantage on a particular event contract are able to trade on prediction markets? Does the public interest utility depend on the type of event in question? What factors should the Commission consider in evaluating and balancing the public interest in this scenario?

30. Some events underlying event contracts are under the control of a single individual or small group of individuals. What role should this aspect of event contracts play in the Commission's consideration of how prediction markets should be regulated? Do the considerations change depending on the type of event in question? Are there particular challenges related to cross-market manipulation—for example, where an individual or small group of individuals seeks to move the prediction market to influence another market, or vice versa? Are prediction markets more likely than other DCMs or SEFs to be susceptible to manipulation? Why or why not?

31. CEA section 6(c)(1) provides that ''[i]t shall be unlawful for any person, directly or indirectly, to use or employ, or attempt to use or employ, in connection with any swap, or a contract of sale of any commodity in interstate commerce, or for future delivery on or subject to the rules of any registered entity, any manipulative or deceptive device or contrivance, in contravention of such rules and regulations as the Commission shall promulgate by [July 21, 2011], provided no rule or regulation promulgated by the Commission shall require any person to disclose to another person nonpublic information that may be material to the market price, rate, or level of the commodity transaction, except as necessary to make any statement made to the other person in or in connection with the transaction not misleading in any material respect.'' [61] What aspects of prediction markets are relevant to the application of this statute? Are prediction markets more or less likely than other derivative markets to be susceptible to ''any manipulative or deceptive device or contrivance''? How should the potential for application of this statute inform the Commission's regulation of prediction markets?

32. CEA section 4c(a)(3) provides that ''[i]t shall be unlawful for any employee or agent of any department or agency of the Federal Government or any Member of Congress or employee of Congress . . . or any judicial officer or judicial employee . . . who, by virtue of the employment or position of the Member, officer, employee or agent, acquires information that may affect or tend to affect the price of any commodity in interstate commerce, or for future delivery, or any swap, and which

[57] 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(5)(C)(i)(VI).

[58] 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(5)(C)(i).

[59] *Id.*

[60] 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c)(5)(C)(iv).

[61] 7 U.S.C. 9(1). *See also* Regulation 180.1, 17 CFR 180.1.

information has not been disseminated [or disclosed] . . . in a manner which makes it generally available to the trading public, . . . to use the information in his personal capacity and for personal gain to enter into, or offer to enter into [a futures contract, option on a futures contract, commodity option, or swap].'' [62] Similarly, CEA section 4c(a)(4) provides that it is unlawful for any such Federal Government employee or official to impart such information in his personal capacity and for personal gain with intent to assist another person in entering into a futures contract, option on a futures contract, commodity option, or swap, and it is unlawful for the other person who receives such information from any such Federal Government employee or official to knowingly use the information in such transactions.[63] How are prediction markets likely to be affected by nonpublic information that is available to Federal Government employees or officials? How should the potential for application of this statute inform the Commission's regulation of prediction markets?

F. Types of Event Contracts and Other Issues

33. As noted above, event contracts may be covered by the statutory definition of the term ''swap'' in CEA section 1a(47)(A).[64] What aspects of prediction markets are relevant to whether event contracts should, or should not, appropriately be classified as swaps? What aspects, if any, distinguish event contracts from other types of swaps? The definition in CEA section 1a(47)(A)(ii) includes an event contract that ''is dependent on the occurrence, nonoccurrence, or the extent of the occurrence of an event or contingency associated with a potential financial, economic, or commercial consequence.'' [65] What potential financial, economic, or commercial consequences underlie event contracts? Similarly, CEA section 1a(47)(A)(i) includes an event contract that is an option ''based on the value, of . . . financial or economic interests or property of any kind.'' [66] How are any event contracts based on the value of financial or economic interests or property? What idiosyncratic risks embedded in event contracts differentiate them from other commodity derivative instruments? How should the Commission take these risks into account when considering how to regulate event contracts and prediction markets? Commodity options are also covered by the statutory swap definition in CEA section 1a(47)(A)(i).[67] How are event contracts similar to, or different from, other types of commodity options?

34. Event contracts are also traded on DCMs as futures contracts.[68] What aspects of prediction markets are relevant to whether event contracts should, or should not, appropriately be classified as futures contracts? What aspects, if any, distinguish event contracts from other types of futures contracts?

35. The event underlying an event contract is typically within the definition of the term ''excluded commodity'' in CEA section 1a(19).[69] Are there any event contracts that are based on events that are not within this statutory definition? If so, how are those event contracts similar to, or different from, event contracts based on events that are within the statutory definition of ''excluded commodity''? How are such differences, if any, relevant to the Commission's regulation of event contracts and prediction markets?

36. Are there any agreements, contracts or transactions that are significantly similar to event contracts, but are not listed on a DCM or SEF? If so, how are those agreements, contracts or transactions similar to, or different from, event contracts listed on DCMs and SEFs?

37. In the 2012 joint rulemaking to further define the term ''swap,'' the CFTC and the SEC adopted an interpretation which, in part, listed certain types of agreements, contracts, or transactions that ''will not be considered swaps or security-based swaps when entered into by consumers (natural persons) . . . primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.'' [70] In doing so, the CFTC and SEC stated that they ''do not believe that Congress intended to include these types of customary consumer and commercial agreements, contracts, or transactions in the swap or security-based swap definition, to limit the types of persons that can enter into or engage in them, or to otherwise to subject these agreements, contracts, or transactions to the regulatory scheme for swaps and security-based swaps.'' [71] Are any event contracts similar to, or different from, the types of agreements, contracts and transactions that are excluded from the swap definition under this interpretation? How are such similarities or differences, if any, relevant to the CFTC's regulation of those event contracts?

38. As noted above, CEA section 15(a) requires that the Commission, before it promulgates a regulation under the CEA, consider the costs and benefits of its action, including an evaluation ''in light of—(A) considerations of protection of market participants and the public; (B) considerations of the efficiency, competitiveness, and financial integrity of futures markets; (C) considerations of price discovery; (D) considerations of sound risk management practices; and (E) other public interest considerations.'' [72] How are these five considerations relevant to the Commission's regulation of prediction markets? In general, what other costs and benefits should the Commission consider as it determines whether to adopt or amend any regulations with respect to prediction markets? Are there less costly alternatives that the Commission should consider? If possible, please provide specific information, data, or studies that you believe would be helpful to the Commission in this regard.

39. CEA section 15(b) requires that the Commission ''take into consideration the public interest to be protected by the antitrust laws and endeavor to take the least anticompetitive means of achieving the objectives of [the CEA], as well as the policies and purposes of [the CEA], in issuing any order or adopting any Commission rule or regulation.'' [73] What aspects of prediction markets are relevant to the Commission's consideration of the public interest to be protected by the antitrust laws as it determines whether to adopt or amend any regulations with respect to prediction markets? It may be appropriate to consider the scope of the relevant market in this regard; in that case, what factors should the Commission take into account? Also, it may be appropriate for the Commission to ''endeavor to take the least anticompetitive means,'' as contemplated by CEA section 15(b),

[62] 7 U.S.C. 6c(a)(3).

[63] 7 U.S.C. 6c(a)(4).

[64] *See* text accompanying note 11, *supra.*

[65] 7 U.S.C. 1a(47)(A)(ii).

[66] 7 U.S.C. 1a(47)(A)(i).

[67] *Id.*

[68] *See supra,* note 14.

[69] 7 U.S.C. 1a(19). The definition is set out in full in note 23, *supra.*

[70] Further Definition of ''Swap,'' ''Security-Based Swap,'' and ''Security-Based Swap Agreement''; Mixed Swaps; Security-Based Swap Agreement Recordkeeping, 77 FR 48208, 48246 (Aug. 13, 2012). This further definition was adopted pursuant to Dodd-Frank Act section 712(d)(1), which directed the CFTC and SEC to undertake a joint rulemaking to define, among other terms, ''Swap,'' ''Security-Based Swap,'' and ''Security-Based Swap Agreement.''

[71] *Id.*

[72] 7 U.S.C. 19(a).

[73] 7 U.S.C. 19(b).

with respect to prediction markets; in that case, what factors should the Commission take into account?

40. As noted above, the Commission has received recent applications for DCM registration from entities that have indicated that they are interested primarily, or exclusively, in operating prediction markets. While registered entities are not considered small entities by the Commission for Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) purposes,[74] the Commission is nevertheless seeking information on how any potential rule changes for prediction markets would impact ''small entities'' as defined by the RFA.[75] What projected cost increases would there be for any small entities impacted by a potential rule change? What less costly alternatives or flexibilities should the Commission consider? In general, how do small entities use prediction markets?

The Office of Management and Budget has determined that this action is a significant regulatory action as defined in Executive Order 12866, as amended, and this action has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 12, 2026, by the Commission.

Christopher Kirkpatrick,

Secretary of the Commission.

Note: The following appendix will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Appendix to Prediction Markets—Commission Voting Summary

On this matter, Chairman Selig voted in the affirmative. No Commissioner voted in the negative.

[FR Doc. 2026–05105 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

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[74] The Commission previously determined that DCMs are not small entities in accordance with the RFA. *See* Policy Statement and Establishment of Definitions of ''Small Entities'' for Purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 47 FR 18618 (Apr. 30, 1982). Similarly, the Commission previously determined that SEFs are not small entities for purposes of the RFA. *See* Core Principles and Other Requirements for SEFs, 78 FR 33476, 33548 (June 4, 2013).

[75] 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* The RFA provides that the term ''small entity'' has the same meaning as ''small business'', ''small organization'' and ''small governmental jurisdiction'' defined in paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of section 601. ''Small business,'' in turn, is defined as having the same meaning of ''small business concern'' set forth in section 3 of the Small Business Act (SBA). 5 U.S.C. 601(6). The RFA permits an agency to establish its own definition of small entity; otherwise, size standards set forth by the SBA apply. A size standard, which is usually stated in number of employees or average annual receipts, represents the largest size that a business (including its subsidiaries and affiliates) may be to remain classified as a small business for SBA and federal contracting programs. The definition of ''small'' varies by industry. The SBA provides that the small business size threshold for securities and commodity exchanges is $47 million in average annual receipts. *See* SBA's 2022 Table of Size Standards, classifying securities and commodity exchanges under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), code 523210, Sector 52-Finance and Insurance, Subsector 523-Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other Financial Investments and Related Activities, available at *https://www.sba.gov/document/support-table-size-standards.*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 878

[Docket No. FDA–2015–N–1765]

RIN 0910–AH14

General and Plastic Surgery Devices: Restricted Sale, Distribution, and Use of Sunlamp Products; Withdrawal of Proposed Rule

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the withdrawal of the proposed rule titled ''General and Plastic Surgery Devices: Restricted Sale, Distribution, and Use of Sunlamp Products,'' which published in the **Federal Register** of December 22, 2015. FDA is taking this action because it no longer intends to finalize the proposed rule.

DATES: The proposed rule published on December 22, 2015 (80 FR 79493) is withdrawn as of March 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and insert the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document into the ''Search'' box and follow the prompts, and/or go to the Dockets Management Staff, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852, 240–402–7500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daniel Schieffer, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 66, Rm. 5562, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, 301–796–3350, *daniel.schieffer@fda.hhs.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of December 22, 2015 (80 FR 79493), FDA (the Agency or we) issued a proposed rule titled ''General and Plastic Surgery Devices: Restricted Sale, Distribution, and Use of Sunlamp Products'' (the Proposed Rule). Sunlamp products are both ''devices'' under section 201(h)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 321(h)(1)) and ''electronic products'' under section 531(2) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 360hh(2)). They are designed to incorporate one or more ultraviolet (UV) lamps intended for irradiation of any part of the living human body, by UV radiation with wavelengths in air between 200 and 400 nanometers, to induce skin tanning (see §§ 878.4635(a) and 1040.20(b)(9) (21 CFR 878.4635(a) and 1040.20(b)(9))). Sunlamp products include tanning beds and tanning booths. Sunlamp products as defined in the Proposed Rule did not include ultraviolet lamps for dermatological disorders regulated under 21 CFR 878.4630.

FDA has undertaken several regulatory initiatives related to sunlamp products. Previously, in a final reclassification order that we issued on June 2, 2014 (79 FR 31205), FDA reclassified sunlamp products and UV lamps intended for use in sunlamp products from class I to class II, making them subject to premarket notification (510(k)) requirements, and established special controls under the device authorities of the FD&C Act. The special controls consist of, among other requirements, performance testing and labeling requirements, including a warning that sunlamp products should not be used on persons under the age of 18 years. That order was effective on September 2, 2014.

Second, in a proposed rule issued simultaneously with the Proposed Rule, FDA proposed amendments to the sunlamp products and UV lamps performance standard at 21 CFR 1040.20, which includes technical and labeling requirements issued in large part under the electronic product radiation control provisions of the FD&C Act (80 FR 79505). Those proposed amendments, if finalized, would update the electronic product performance standard to reflect current science and harmonize with certain consensus standards. FDA's proposed amendments to the sunlamp products and UV lamps performance standard at 21 CFR 1040.20 are not affected by this withdrawal.

Finally, in the Proposed Rule, FDA proposed to establish device restrictions under section 520(e) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 360j(e)), which authorizes FDA to issue regulations imposing restrictions on the sale, distribution, or use of a device. The Proposed Rule contained three types of proposed restrictions on the use of sunlamp products. First, the Proposed Rule proposed restricting the use of sunlamp products to individuals age 18 and older under proposed § 878.4635(c)(1). Second, in proposed § 878.4635(c)(4), the Proposed Rule proposed requiring

tanning facilities to only allow adults to use a sunlamp product if the prospective user had signed a risk acknowledgement certification in the past six months, and proposed the form of this certification. Third, the Proposed Rule contained two proposed user-manual related provisions. In proposed § 878.4635(c)(2), the Proposed Rule proposed requiring tanning facility operators to provide a sunlamp product's user manual to users or prospective users of sunlamp products upon request, and in proposed § 878.4635(c)(3), the Proposed Rule proposed requiring 510(k) holders to provide a sunlamp product's user manual to tanning facility operators and sunlamp product users or prospective users upon request.

FDA received more than 8,100 comments on the Proposed Rule from entities including industry associations, medical and healthcare professional associations, law firms, cancer advocacy groups, and other interested parties, including individuals. In general, the comments discussed the dangers of UV radiation from sunlamp products; scientific aspects of the Proposed Rule; vulnerability of young people to the risks of sunlamp products; support for personal choice and parental decision-making; availability and relative safety of sunlamp product alternatives; and compliance burdens on small businesses.

In light of the scientific and technical concerns raised in the comments on the Proposed Rule, concerns regarding possible unintended consequences of certain proposals in the Proposed Rule, and potential alternatives proposed in comments received on the Proposed Rule, FDA is withdrawing the Proposed Rule in order to reconsider the best means for addressing the issues covered by the Proposed Rule and related issues regarding access to sunlamp products. Therefore, effective on the date of publication of this document, the Proposed Rule is withdrawn.

FDA continues to consider regulatory initiatives related to sunlamp products. The withdrawal of the Proposed Rule does not preclude the Agency from reinstituting rulemaking concerning the issues addressed in the proposal. Should we decide to undertake such rulemaking in the future, we will issue a proposed rule and provide a new opportunity for comment. Furthermore, this withdrawal is only intended to address the Proposed Rule ''General and Plastic Surgery Devices: Restricted Sale, Distribution, and Use of Sunlamp Products'' published in the **Federal Register** of December 22, 2015, and not any other pending proposals that the Agency has issued or is considering. If you need additional information about the subject matter of the withdrawn Proposed Rule, you may review the Agency's website (*www.fda.gov*) for any current information on the matter.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.,

Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

[FR Doc. 2026–05103 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of the Attorney General

28 CFR Part 26

[Docket No. OAG198; AG Order No. 6678–2026]

RIN 1105–AB80

Certification Process for State Capital Counsel Systems

AGENCY: Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: Chapter 154 of title 28, United States Code, provides special procedures for federal habeas corpus review of cases brought by prisoners in state custody who are under a sentence of death. The special procedures are available to States that the Attorney General has certified as having established mechanisms for the appointment, compensation, and payment of reasonable litigation expenses of competent counsel in state postconviction proceedings brought by indigent prisoners, and as providing standards of competency for the appointment of counsel in these proceedings. This rule would remove impediments to certification that chapter 154 does not authorize and would enable more prompt decisions on States' requests for certification.

DATES: Written and electronic comments must be sent or submitted on or before May 15, 2026. Comments received by mail will be considered timely if they are postmarked on or before the last day of the comment period. The electronic Federal Docket Management System will accept electronic comments until midnight Eastern Time at the end of that day.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Regulations Docket Clerk, Office of Legal Policy, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 4234, Washington, DC 20530. To ensure proper handling, please reference RIN 1105–AB80 on your correspondence. You may submit comments electronically or view an electronic version of this proposed rule at *http://www.regulations.gov.* In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(4), a summary of this rule may be found at *https://www.regulations.gov.* Commenters must submit comments by using one of the methods described above, not by emailing the address set forth in the following paragraph.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Levi Lall, Counsel, Office of Legal Policy, U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20530; telephone 202–598–0771.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Participation

Posting of Public Comments. Interested persons are invited to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments on all aspects of this rule via one of the methods and by the deadline stated above. The Department of Justice (''the Department'') also invites comments that relate to the economic, environmental, or federalism effects that might result from this rule. Comments that will provide the most assistance to the Department in developing these procedures will reference a specific portion of the rule, explain the reason for any recommended change, and include data, information, or authority that support such recommended change.

Please note that all comments received are considered part of the public record and made available for public inspection at *http://www.regulations.gov.* Such information includes personally identifying information (''PII'') (such as your name, address, etc.).

Interested persons are not required to submit their PII in order to comment on this rule. However, any PII that is submitted is subject to being posted to the publicly accessible website at *http://www.regulations.gov* without redaction.

If you want to submit confidential business information as part of your comment but do not want it to be posted online, you must include the phrase ''CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION'' in the first paragraph of your comment. You must also prominently identify confidential business information to be redacted within the comment. If a comment has so much confidential business information that it cannot be effectively redacted, all or part of that comment may not be posted on *http://www.regulations.gov.*

Confidential business information identified and located as set forth above will not be placed in the public docket

file. The Department may withhold from public viewing information provided in comments that it determines may impact the privacy of an individual or is offensive. For additional information, please read the Privacy Act notice that is available via the link in the footer of *http://www.regulations.gov.* To inspect the agency's public docket file in person, you must make an appointment with the agency. Please see the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** paragraph above for agency contact information.

II. Legal Authority

The Department of Justice is issuing this rule pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2265(b).

III. Overview

Executing final judgments in state capital cases, and thus achieving finality for crime victims and their families, is substantially delayed because of an interminable process of state and federal postconviction review. Following conviction, sentencing, affirmance of the convictions and capital sentences on direct state court review, affirmance of the convictions and capital sentences in state collateral proceedings, and denial of certiorari by the U.S. Supreme Court, inmates under sentence of death imposed pursuant to state law may continue to litigate and relitigate their claims in the lower federal courts. The process starts by applying for habeas corpus in a federal district court and ordinarily takes years to move through the federal court system. Even when a capital sentence survives the multiple stages of repetitive state and federal review, it is typically decades before it can be carried out. Data collected by the Department reveals that, as of December 31, 2022, the average time on death row was 21 years. *See* Tracy L. Snell, Bureau of Just. Stat., *Capital Punishment, 2022—Statistical Tables* at 10 (2024), *https://perma.cc/UM7U-HXKL.* That constitutes a dramatic increase from 1984, at which time the average time between sentencing and execution was just over six years. *See id.* at 12.

While the States have a degree of control over the extent and duration of capital punishment litigation in their own court systems, they are powerless to curb the delays resulting from federal habeas review. Congress initially sought to address this problem in 1996 by enacting chapter 154 of title 28 as part of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, Public Law 104–132, sec. 107, 110 Stat. 1214, 1221–26. Among other reforms, chapter 154 provides definite time limits for concluding the adjudication of federal habeas petitions in capital cases, which otherwise can languish for years at the various stages of federal court adjudication and review. *See, e.g.,* 28 U.S.C. 2266. Application of chapter 154 is conditioned on States adopting mechanisms to appoint, compensate, and pay reasonable litigation expenses for competent counsel to represent indigent prisoners under sentence of death in state postconviction proceedings in capital cases, and setting counsel competency standards. *See id.* 2265(a)(1)(A), (C).

Originally, federal courts determined whether States satisfied chapter 154's statutory preconditions. Congress eventually concluded, however, that the courts were not implementing chapter 154 as Congress intended, but rather were creating their own preconditions for applying chapter 154 that had no basis in the statute. *See* 152 Cong. Rec. 2440–41, 2445–46 (2006) (remarks of Sen. Jon Kyl); 151 Cong. Rec. E2639–40 (2005) (remarks of Rep. Jeff Flake). Congress accordingly amended chapter 154 in 2006 to assign the certification determination to the Attorney General, believing that the Attorney General would be free of the conflicts of interest that were leading to adverse judicial decisions from the regional courts of appeals. *Id.* Congress further amended chapter 154 by adding section 2265(a)(3), which states that ''[t]here are no requirements for certification or for application of this chapter other than those expressly stated in this chapter.'' USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, Public Law 109–177, sec. 507(c), 120 Stat. 192, 250 (2006) (codified at 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(3)).

Following the direction of 28 U.S.C. 2265(b) to promulgate implementing regulations for the certification procedure, Attorney General Mukasey issued regulations in 2008 to carry out the chapter in conformity with the legislative text, imposing no significant preconditions on State qualification beyond those appearing expressly in the statutes. *See* Certification Process for State Capital Counsel Systems, 73 FR 75327 (Dec. 11, 2008) (''2008 Regulations''). However, the regulations were quickly challenged in litigation, and following a change of administration, Attorney General Holder rescinded the original regulations and later issued regulations imposing many additional requirements and restrictions on chapter 154 certification. *See* Certification Process for State Capital Counsel System, 78 FR 58160, 58160–61 (Sept. 23, 2013) (''2013 Regulations'').

Following another change of administration, and after clearing additional litigative challenges, the Department began reviewing state applications for chapter 154 certification. It ultimately concluded in 2020 that Arizona satisfied chapter 154's requirements. *See* Certification of Arizona Capital Counsel Mechanism, 85 FR 20705 (Apr. 14, 2020). The 2020 certification was promptly challenged in the D.C. Circuit and, following the transition to the Biden Administration, the Department effectively nullified the 2020 certification by seeking and securing a voluntary remand from the D.C. Circuit for further development of the administrative record and reconsideration. *See* Arizona Chapter 154 Certification Review; Notice Regarding Arizona's June 2022 Response, 87 FR 52416 (Aug. 25, 2022). On January 17, 2025, Attorney General Garland signed an order determining that the record did not support a conclusion that Arizona's postconviction capital counsel mechanisms meet the requirements under chapter 154 and denying certification to Arizona, notwithstanding the favorable determination by Attorney General Barr in 2020. *Denial of Arizona Chapter 154 Certification,* A.G. Order No. 6157–2025 (2021).

Hence, nearly 30 years after the original enactment of chapter 154, its expedited federal habeas corpus procedures have not been applied in federal habeas review of a single state capital case, effectively rendering chapter 154 a dead letter and thwarting Congress's objectives. To ensure that Congress's statutory scheme is given effect, the Department is re-committing to implementing chapter 154 in conformity with its terms. *Cf.* Memorandum from Attorney General Pam Bondi to All Department Employees, *Re: Reviving the Federal Death Penalty and Lifting the Moratorium on Federal Executions* (Feb. 5, 2025), *https://perma.cc/U3AG-ELUD.* Effectuating the statute's terms requires rescinding aspects of the 2013 Regulations that add non-statutory requirements for certification and adopting other changes that will expedite and strengthen the certification process. The affected areas are counsel competency, compensation of counsel, timeliness of appointment, the definition of indigent prisoners, the Department's internal review process for state applications, and the finality of certifications. Because each of the proposed changes to these affected areas is independently valid and justified, the proposed rule clarifies that each proposed change is severable.

Attorney General's Regulatory Responsibilities

Section 2265(b) requires the Attorney General to ''promulgate regulations to implement the certification procedure'' under section 2265(a). 28 U.S.C. 2265(b). By its terms, the grant of regulatory authority to the Attorney General is limited to procedure, not substance. The statute further restrains the Attorney General's regulatory authority by providing that ''[t]here are no requirements for certification or for application of this chapter other than those expressly stated in this chapter.'' *Id.* 2265(a)(3).

Notably, chapter 154 leaves undisturbed the States' authority to set substantive standards for counsel competency, appointment, compensation, and payment of reasonable litigation expenses. Section 2265(a)(1)(C) directs the Attorney General merely to determine whether ''the State provides standards of competency for the appointment of counsel in proceedings described in subparagraph (A).'' *Id.* 2265(a)(1)(C). Similarly, section 2265(a)(1)(A) directs the Attorney General to determine only ''whether the State has established a mechanism for the appointment, compensation, and payment of reasonable litigation expenses for competent counsel.'' *Id.* 2265(a)(1)(A). In light of these narrow authorizations to the Attorney General and section 2265(a)(3)'s prohibition against adding to chapter 154's express requirements, the 2013 Regulations exceeded the Attorney General's statutory authority by promulgating federal standards on counsel competency, appointment, and compensation, in addition to other atextual requirements. This rule thus does not prescribe alternative federal standards on these issues, which would suffer from the same legal infirmity.

Statutory prohibition aside, adding atextual requirements to chapter 154 through federal regulation would thwart Congress's goal of expediting federal habeas review of state capital convictions; delay finality for victims and their families; increase burdens on States, the Department, and affected parties; and unnecessarily complicate review of state applications. For these reasons, even if the Attorney General had statutory discretion to promulgate certification requirements in addition to those in section 2265—which she does not—she would not exercise such discretion.

Counsel Competency

Section 2265(a)(1) directs the Attorney General to determine ''whether the State has established a mechanism for the appointment . . . of competent counsel'' and ''whether the State provides standards of competency for the appointment of counsel.'' 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(1). The 2008 Regulations naturally understood this to mean that the state capital counsel mechanism must provide for the appointment of counsel who meet competency standards that the State has adopted. The 2008 Regulations rejected the view that the Attorney General could adopt a nationwide, federal counsel competency standard, which chapter 154 nowhere authorizes

> Some commenters urged that the rule be revised to provide further specification concerning the ''standards of competency[ ]'' [and] ''competent counsel'' . . . that a state's postconviction capital counsel system must provide to qualify for chapter 154 certification. For example, . . . the Judicial Conference of the United States in its comments urged . . . that ''[s]pecific mandatory standards similar to those set forth in [18 U.S.C. 3599] should be required with respect to the appointment and compensation of counsel for capital defendants . . . . The commenters are correct that the text of chapter 154 needs to be supplemented in defining competency standards for postconviction capital counsel, but mistaken as to who must effect that supplementation. Responsibility to set competency standards for postconviction capital counsel is assigned to the states that seek certification. 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(1)(C) . . . . [While] the Judicial Conference . . . urg[ed] that states be required to satisfy federally prescribed standards of counsel competency . . . , Congress did not accept the Conference's recommendation on this point . . . . The Attorney General has no authority to overrule Congress and prescribe standards that others unsuccessfully urged Congress to impose.

73 FR at 75330–31.

In contrast, the 2013 Regulations required States to comply with competency standards sufficient in the Attorney General's judgment, relying on an opinion issued in 2009 by the Department's Office of Legal Counsel (''OLC''). *See* 78 FR at 58161–62, 58169–72, 58177–79 (citing *State Procedures for Appointment of Competent Counsel in Post-Conviction Review of Capital Sentences,* 33 Op. O.L.C. 402 (2009) (''2009 OLC Opinion'')). The 2009 OLC Opinion opined that chapter 154 did not ''compel'' the Attorney General to interpret chapter 154 in the same manner as the original 2008 Regulations, and that chapter 154 could ''reasonably'' be interpreted to allow greater discretion to prescribe federal counsel competency requirements ''under the now familiar *Chevron* framework.'' 2009 OLC Opinion, 33 Op. O.L.C. at 409, 411 (citing *Chevron U.S.A., Inc.* v. *Nat. Res. Def. Council, Inc.,* 467 U.S. 837, 844 (1984)).

The Supreme Court has since overruled *Chevron* in *Loper Bright Enterprises* v. *Raimondo,* 603 U.S. 369 (2024). Following *Chevron*'s abrogation, agencies must adhere to the single best reading of the statutes they administer, and not alternative, less plausible interpretations that are merely within the bounds of what could be considered reasonable. In view of this intervening precedent, OLC recently withdrew its 2009 Opinion after determining that it did not provide even a permissible reading of section 2265. *Reconsidering State Procedures for Appointment of Competent Counsel in Postconviction Review of Capital Sentences,* 50 Op. O.L.C. ____, at *3–4 (Feb. 18, 2025) (''2025 OLC Opinion''). Having fully considered the matter, the Attorney General has concluded that the 2013 Regulations' counsel-competency provisions do not reflect the best reading of the statute. The best reading of chapter 154 is that it does not authorize the Attorney General to establish federal competency standards for state capital counsel, and does not permit the Attorney General to impose more stringent requirements relating to counsel competency than those expressly stated in chapter 154 itself. *See* 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(3). Hence, this proposed rule limits the regulations only to what is required by the statute and rescinds the additional counsel-competency requirements appearing in § 26.22(b) in the 2013 Regulations. *See* 78 FR at 58183–84.

Compensation of Counsel

Section 2265(a)(1) directs the Attorney General to determine ''whether the State has established a mechanism for the . . . compensation . . . of . . . counsel.'' 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(1). The 2008 Regulations rejected public comments that urged that the regulations should adopt more stringent compensation requirements:

> With respect to compensation of counsel, various commenters urged that the rule be more prescriptive regarding the amount of required compensation, to ensure that state postconviction capital counsel are ''reasonably'' or ''adequately'' compensated or receive ''fair'' compensation. Again, such comments urge the regulatory adoption of measures that Congress declined to include in chapter 154. In contrast to the immediately succeeding phrase concerning litigation expenses in section 2265(a)(1)(A), which requires a mechanism for payment of ''reasonable'' litigation expenses, the language relating to ''compensation'' in the same provision comes with no qualifier. The statute requires only that the state have a mechanism for the ''compensation'' of

postconviction capital counsel, leaving determination of the level of compensation to the states.

73 FR at 75331.

Drawing on the 2009 OLC Opinion, the 2013 Regulations maintained that the Department could ignore Congress's statutory language and impose extra-statutory counsel-compensation requirements as necessary to ensure the availability for appointment of competent counsel. *See* 78 FR at 58161–62, 58179. As with its approach to counsel competency, the 2009 OLC Opinion again relied on *Chevron*'s deference to ''reasonable,'' but not necessarily best, interpretations of statutes, *see* 2009 OLC Opinion, 33 Op. O.L.C. at 419—deference that no longer exists following the Supreme Court's decision in *Loper Bright. See also* 2025 OLC Opinion, 50 Op. O.L.C. ____, at *1 (withdrawing 2009 OLC Opinion).

Having fully considered the matter, the Attorney General has concluded that the 2013 Regulations' understanding of chapter 154's language relating to compensation of counsel is not the best reading of the statute. Section 2265(a)(3) unequivocally prohibits imposing requirements not expressly stated in chapter 154 itself. The 2013 Regulations' atextual federal compensation requirements, *see* 78 FR at 58183, contravene Congress's express prohibition. Moreover, chapter 154 recognizes States' authority to set the mechanism for counsel compensation and simply authorizes the Attorney General to ''determine'' that a State has done so. 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(1)(A). Because chapter 154 does not authorize the Attorney General to set a federal compensation standard for state capital counsel, the Attorney General is statutorily prohibited from regulating on this issue.

Even if chapter 154 did give the Attorney General discretion to prescribe by regulation counsel-compensation requirements not stated in chapter 154, the Attorney General would not exercise that discretion. If States are unable to provide counsel—due to insufficient compensation or any other reason—then the expedited federal habeas review procedures of chapter 154 are not available to them. 28 U.S.C. 2261(b)(2) generally conditions the application of chapter 154 on actual representation by or waiver of counsel. Thus, the States are incentivized to provide compensation that will attract willing counsel. The statutory requirement that States ''establish[ ] a mechanism for the appointment . . . of competent counsel'' ensures that States must offer sufficient compensation to attract counsel meeting this qualification. *Id.* 2265(a)(1)(A).

Because the imposition of a federal compensation standard contravenes Congress's prohibition of extra-statutory requirements, *see* 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(3), the proposed rule rescinds the atextual counsel-compensation requirements of section 26.22(c) appearing in the 2013 Regulations. *See* 78 FR at 58183.

Timeliness of Appointment

The 2013 Regulations added a requirement that appointment of state postconviction capital counsel must be ''in a manner that is reasonably timely in light of the time limitations for seeking state and federal postconviction review and the time required for developing and presenting claims in the postconviction proceedings.'' 78 FR at 58177. The 2008 Regulations had no similar requirement because nothing of this nature appears in chapter 154, and ''[t]here are no requirements for certification or for application of this chapter other than those expressly stated in this chapter.'' 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(3). Indeed, the judicial imposition of a timely appointment requirement motivated Congress's decision in 2006 to transfer the chapter 154 certification determination to the Attorney General and to add a provision prohibiting any addition to chapter 154's express requirements. 152 Cong. Rec. 2446 (remarks of Sen. Jon Kyl) (''In *Spears* v. *Stewart,* the Ninth Circuit . . . den[ied] the State the benefit of [chapter 154] qualification because of a delay in appointing counsel. . . . Paragraph (a)(3) of new section 2265 forbids creation of additional requirements not expressly stated in the chapter, as was done in the Spears case.'' (citation omitted)); *see* 73 FR at 75332.

The 2013 Regulations sought to justify this addition to the express statutory requirements on the ground that in some situations delay in appointing postconviction counsel could deprive a defendant of meaningful assistance of counsel. *See* 78 FR at 58165–67, 58176–77. Chapter 154, however, directs the Attorney General to determine whether States have capital counsel mechanisms that satisfy the requirements Congress has prescribed in chapter 154—not to insert requirements that others believe Congress ought to have included. Timing rules for appointment of state postconviction capital counsel are not among the express statutory requirements. Nor does inserting ''reasonably timely'' into a ''definition'' of ''appointment''—a term that requires no definition—circumvent the statute's unequivocal prohibition of atextual certification requirements.

This proposed rule accordingly rescinds the ''reasonably timely'' requirement graphed onto the definition of appointment by the 2013 Regulations.

Definition of Indigent Prisoners

The 2008 Regulations did not include any special definition of the term indigent prisoners. *See* 73 FR at 75338. The 2013 Regulations added a special definition of ''[i]ndigent prisoners'' to mean ''persons whose net financial resources and income are insufficient to obtain qualified counsel.'' *See* 78 FR at 58183. No explanation was provided for the addition of this special definition. *See id.* 58165–68.

This proposed rule rescinds the definition of ''indigent prisoners.'' Indigency requires no special definition because all jurisdictions will have a definition of this term that they can use, given that States are required to appoint counsel for indigent defendants in trial and appellate proceedings. The definition in the 2013 Regulations clouds what is otherwise a clear and familiar concept because it refers to persons whose financial resources and income are insufficient to obtain ''qualified'' counsel, with no explanation of what ''qualified'' is supposed to mean.

Application Review Process

Both the 2008 Regulations and the 2013 Regulations included a categorical requirement that the Attorney General publish a notice in the **Federal Register** of every State's request for chapter 154 certification and receive and consider public comments thereon. *See* 73 FR at 75339; 78 FR at 58184. This proposed rule rescinds this requirement for two reasons:

First, notice and comment is not required under either chapter 154 or the Administrative Procedure Act (''APA''). Nothing in chapter 154 contemplates a categorical requirement for public notice and comment with respect to all States' applications, regardless of actual need, with resulting delay in deciding whether the State is entitled to the application of chapter 154. Evaluating States' requests for chapter 154 certification consistent with Congress's statutory framework should be simpler and quicker without the legally and practically unnecessary requirement that processing States' requests must start by posting them for public comment.

The APA likewise does not require notice and comment for chapter 154 certification requests. Under the APA, the chapter 154 certification process is an adjudication, not a rulemaking, and the resulting certification decisions are

orders, not rules. Hence, the notice-and—comment requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553 for rulemaking do not apply. *See* 73 FR at 75333–34; 78 FR at 58174.

Second, public notice and comment will not always be necessary for determining whether a State has established a capital counsel mechanism that satisfies chapter 154. Stripped of the extra-statutory conditions of the 2013 Regulations, certification decisions present fairly straightforward questions regarding whether a State has a mechanism for appointing, compensating, and paying reasonable litigation expenses of counsel, and has standards of competency for such appointments. These are matters that may be readily ascertainable from a State's statutes and policies and from the information in its request for certification, without need for public input through **Federal Register** publication. Nevertheless, the Attorney General will retain the discretion to seek public input on individual state certification requests when judged necessary or helpful, as may be done with respect to any other matter the Attorney General needs to decide.

Finality of Certifications

Chapter 154 provides no authorization for the Attorney General to temporally limit State certifications and require periodic recertification, or to terminate or revoke a certification once granted. The plain statutory text reflects Congress's decision to adopt a system of one-time, permanent certification, as was explicitly stated by one of its key drafters during the course of its ratification:

> When section 507 [*i.e.,* the 2006 chapter 154 amendments] was being finalized, I and others were presented with arguments that some mechanism should be created for ''decertifying'' a State that has opted in to chapter 154 but that allegedly has fallen out of compliance with its standards. I ultimately concluded that such a mechanism was unnecessary, and that it would likely impose substantial litigation burdens on the opt-in States that would outweigh any justification for the further review. . . . [I]f such a means of post-opt-in review were created, it inevitably would be overused and abused. . . . I thought it best to create a system of one-time certification, with no avenues to challenge or attempt to repeal the State's continuing chapter-154 eligibility. The consequences of opting in to chapter 154 should not be perpetual litigation over the State's continuing eligibility. . . . Therefore . . . , once a State is certified for chapter 154, that certification is final. There is no provision for ''decertification'' or ''compliance review'' after the State has been made subject to chapter 154.

152 Cong. Rec. 2446 (remarks of Sen. Jon Kyl).

The 2008 Regulations recognized and respected the terms of chapter 154 in this regard, as well as the intent clearly stated in the legislative history. *See* 73 FR at 75335.

The 2013 Regulations do not. They acknowledge that chapter 154 contains ''no direction to the Attorney General to implement a decertification procedure'' and that ''day-to-day oversight and potential decertification of state capital counsel mechanisms are not among the Attorney General's authorized functions under chapter 154.'' 78 FR at 58175. Nevertheless, the 2013 Regulations provide categorically that a certification remains good only for a period of five years, a condition that likewise does not appear in chapter 154. *See id.* at 58184. The 2013 Regulations sought to justify this requirement based on a policy concern that a State's capital-counsel mechanism should be periodically revisited to ensure continued compliance with chapter 154. *See id.* at 58175–76, 58180–81.

However, speculative concerns about possible future changes in certified States' capital-counsel mechanisms, which may not occur in any State, cannot justify the addition of a regulatory certification requirement not required by the statute and contrary to the legislative intent. The 2013 Regulations' five-year rule makes chapter 154 inapplicable unless a State reapplies for certification after five years and persuades the Attorney General again that it has established a capital counsel mechanism satisfying chapter 154's requirements—a condition on chapter 154's application that appears nowhere in chapter 154 itself. Since there are ''no requirements for certification or for application of'' chapter 154 ''other than those expressly stated in th[e] chapter,'' 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(3), the requirement to recertify after five years, *see* 78 FR at 58184, is *ultra vires* and this proposed rule rescinds it.

Severability

Each of the reforms proposed in this rulemaking is independently justified and valid. For example, rescission of the 2013 Regulations' federal compensation standard for state capital counsel is necessary and justified, regardless of the validity of this rule's rescission of the federal counsel-competency standard, timeliness requirement for appointments, or limitation on the finality of certifications, and vice versa. Likewise, affording the Attorney General discretion on whether public notice and comment is needed or useful in deciding any particular State's application for chapter 154 certification is justified and valid, regardless of the validity of the rule's other reforms. The provisions of this rule accordingly are severable and each is valid regardless of the validity or invalidity of any other provision.

IV. Section-by-Section Analysis

By section and subsection, the provisions of the proposed rule are as follows:

Section 26.20

Section 26.20 explains the rule's purpose of implementing the certification procedure for chapter 154, as directed by 28 U.S.C. 2265(b). It briefly describes the effect of chapter 154 certification. This explanation has been shortened from the 2013 Regulations for clarity.

Section 26.21

Section 26.21 defines the terms ''appropriate state official'' and ''State postconviction proceedings.'' These definitions are unchanged from the previous regulations and reflect the same purposes. *See* 78 FR at 58177, 58183.

Section 26.21 no longer includes the 2013 Regulations' definition of ''[a]ppointment'' to mean ''provision of counsel in a manner that is reasonably timely in light of the time limitations for seeking state and federal postconviction review and the time required for developing and presenting claims.'' *See id.* at 58183. This was not a definition of ''appointment'' at all—a term that requires no definition in this context—but rather an effort to add a timeliness-of-appointment precondition for chapter 154 certification, contrary to section 2265(a)(3)'s prohibition of conditions for certification not expressly stated in the chapter.

Section 26.21 no longer includes the 2013 Regulations' definition of ''[i]ndigent prisoners'' to mean ''persons whose net financial resources and income are insufficient to obtain qualified counsel.'' *See id.* Indigency requires no special definition here because all jurisdictions will have a definition of this term that they can use, given that States are required to appoint counsel for indigent defendants in trial and appellate proceedings. The definition in the 2013 Regulations clouds what is otherwise a clear and familiar concept because it refers to persons whose financial resources and income are insufficient to obtain ''qualified'' counsel, with no explanation of what ''qualified'' is supposed to mean.

Section 26.21 adds a definition of ''competent counsel'' to mean ''counsel meeting state standards of competency.'' This confirms that chapter 154's requirement relating to competent counsel means appointment of counsel meeting state standards of competency, not the additional federal standard of competency appearing in § 26.22(b) in the 2013 Regulations, *see id.,* which is *ultra vires* because chapter 154 does not authorize a federal competency standard.

Section 26.22

Subsections (a) and (b) of § 26.22 reproduce (i) 28 U.S.C. 2265(a)(3)'s provision that there are no requirements for certification or application of chapter 154 other than those expressly stated in the chapter and (ii) chapter 154's express requirements for certification, relating to appointment, compensation, payment of reasonable litigation expenses, and competency. Section 26.22 as amended does not include the extra-statutory federal competency and compensation standards appearing in § 26.22(b)–(c) in the 2013 Regulations, *see* 78 FR at 58183, which are *ultra vires* because they do not appear expressly in chapter 154.

Subsections (a) and (b) of § 26.22 also do not include language from § 26.22(a) in the 2013 Regulations requiring that postconviction counsel ''may not be counsel who previously represented the prisoner at trial unless the prisoner and counsel expressly requested continued representation.'' 78 FR at 58183. This language mirrors a statutory requirement in 28 U.S.C. 2261, which imposes conditions on the application of expedited habeas proceedings. But section 2261's text and structure reflect that this requirement is not a precondition for state certification under section 2265. Start with section 2261(b), which provides that chapter 154 applies if, among other requirements, ''the Attorney General certifies [ ] a State . . . as provided in section 2265.'' Neighboring section 2261(d) then provides that ''[n]o counsel appointed pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) to represent a State prisoner under capital sentence shall have previously represented the prisoner at trial in the case for which the appointment is made unless the prisoner and counsel expressly request continued representation.'' 28 U.S.C. 2261(d). This is most naturally read as an additional, independent qualification on subsections (b) and (c) for applying expedited habeas procedures, distinct from the section 2265 certification requirements separately cross referenced in section 2261(b).

Section 2265 reinforces this reading. That section provides that ''certification'' is limited to only three determinations: (A) whether the State has established a mechanism for the appointment, compensation, and payment of reasonable litigation expenses of competent counsel in State postconviction proceedings brought by indigent prisoners who have been sentenced to death; (B) the date on which the mechanism described in subparagraph (A) was established; and (C) whether the State provides standards of competency for the appointment of counsel in proceedings described in subparagraph (A). *Id.* 2265(a)(1). These determinations do not include whether post-conviction counsel is separate from trial counsel—a requirement found in section 2261. Whether postconviction counsel is separate from trial counsel (absent an express request for continued representation) is a question for a federal court to determine on a case-by-case basis and would be ill-suited to a categorical state certification decision. The 2013 Regulations improperly conflated it with the separate requirements for certification by the Attorney General.

Subsection (c) of § 26.22 rescinds the unnecessary requirement that all chapter 154 certification requests be subject to public notice and comment. *See* 78 FR at 58174, 58183. It instead promotes the prompt resolution of certification applications by directing the Attorney General to make a determination within 90 days of receipt of the request. For certification applications that are pending when this rule is finalized, § 26.22(c)'s 90-day decision period begins to run from the finalization of the rule. Section 26.22(c) further provides that these time rules do not affect the validity of a later certification decision by the Attorney General if the Attorney General is unable to decide within the relevant time frame. This ensures that the Attorney General will not be divested of authority to make a certification determination, and that the State will not have to restart the application and certification process if, for example, the Attorney General is temporarily barred from proceeding with a certification because of a district court's injunction.

Subsection (d) of § 26.22 provides that the certification is final and that there is no authorization or procedure for suspending, reconsidering, revoking, or denying a certification once granted. This rescinds the 2013 Regulations' provision in § 26.23(d)–(e) that certifications lapse after five years.

Section 26.23

Section 26.23 no longer discusses the certification process because that issue is now addressed in § 26.22. Instead, § 26.23 adds a severability provision for the rule.

V. Regulatory Requirements

A. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Attorney General, in accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 605(b)), has reviewed this regulation and by approving it certifies that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities for the purposes of that Act because the regulation only implements the certification procedure for chapter 154 of title 28. No small entities (small businesses, small organizations, or small governmental jurisdictions) are regulated by this rulemaking.

B. Executive Orders 12866 and 13563—Regulatory Review

The Office of Management and Budget (''OMB'') has determined that this rulemaking is a ''significant regulatory action'' under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, 58 FR 51735, 51738 (Sept. 30, 1993), but that it is not a section 3(f)(1) significant action. Accordingly, this proposed rule has been submitted to OMB for review. This proposed rule has been drafted and reviewed in accordance with section 1(b) of Executive Order 12866 and Executive Order 13563, 76 FR 3821 (Jan. 18, 2011). The changes made by this rulemaking involve no additional costs. If anything, this rulemaking will diminish the financial burden on States related to their applications for certification. The benefits include increased ease and expedition in determining whether States have satisfied the requirements of chapter 154.

C. Executive Order 14192—Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation

Executive Order 14192, 90 FR 9065 (Jan. 31, 2025), requires an agency, unless prohibited by law, to identify at least 10 existing regulations to be repealed or revised when the agency publicly proposes for notice and comment, or otherwise promulgates a new regulation, that qualifies as an Executive Order 14192 regulatory action (defined in OMB Memorandum M–25–20 as a final significant regulatory action as defined in section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 that imposes total costs greater than zero). In furtherance of this requirement, section 3(c) of Executive Order 14192 requires that the incremental costs associated with such

new regulations must, to the extent permitted by law, also be offset by eliminating existing costs associated with at least 10 prior regulations. *Id.* at 9065. This proposed rule proposes to rescind impediments to certification that chapter 154 does not authorize, and to enable more prompt decision of States' requests for certification. Accordingly, this rule, if finalized, will be considered a deregulatory action.

D. Executive Order 14294—Overcriminalization of Federal Regulations

Executive Order 14294, 90 FR 20363 (May 9, 2025), requires agencies promulgating regulations with criminal regulatory offenses potentially subject to criminal enforcement to explicitly describe the conduct subject to criminal enforcement, the authorizing statutes, and the mens rea standard applicable to each element of those offenses. *Id.* at 20363. This proposed rule does not create a criminal regulatory offense and is thus exempt from Executive Order 14924 requirements.

E. Executive Order 13132—Federalism

This proposed rule will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, as outlined by Executive Order 13132, 64 FR 43255 (Aug. 4, 1999). The proposed rule implements only a procedure for States that request certification of their postconviction capital-counsel mechanisms under chapter 154 of title 28.

F. Executive Order 12988—Civil Justice Reform

This proposed rule meets the applicable standards set forth in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, 61 FR 4729, 4730–32 (Feb. 5, 1996), to specify provisions in clear language. Pursuant to section 3(b)(1)(I) of the Executive Order, nothing in this proposed rule is intended to create any legal or procedural rights enforceable against the United States. *See id.* at 4731.

G. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This rule when finalized will not result in the expenditure by state, local and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of $100 million or more (as adjusted for inflation) in any one year and it will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. Therefore, no actions were deemed necessary under the provisions of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995. The rule only concerns the procedure for certification of state postconviction capital counsel mechanisms under chapter 154 of title 28.

List of Subjects in 28 CFR Part 26

Law enforcement officers, Prisoners.

Authority and Issuance

Accordingly, for the reasons stated in the preamble, the Attorney General proposes to amend 28 CFR part 26 as follows:

PART 26—DEATH SENTENCES PROCEDURES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 26 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 18 U.S.C. 4001(b), 4002; 28 U.S.C. 509, 510, 2261, 2265.

■ 2. Subpart B of part 26 is revised to read as follows:

Subpart B—Certification Process for State Capital Counsel Systems

Sec.
26.20 Purpose.
26.21 Definitions.
26.22 Certification.
26.23 Severability.

Subpart B—Certification Process for State Capital Counsel Systems

§ 26.20 Purpose.

Sections 2261(b)(1) and 2265(a) of title 28 of the United States Code require the Attorney General to certify whether a State has established a mechanism for providing legal representation to indigent prisoners in State postconviction proceedings in capital cases that satisfies the requirements of chapter 154 of title 28. Certification qualifies the State for the application, in its capital cases, of special federal habeas corpus review procedures set forth in sections 2262, 2263, 2264, and 2266 of title 28. Subsection (b) of 28 U.S.C. 2265 directs the Attorney General to promulgate regulations to implement the certification procedure under subsection (a) of that section.

§ 26.21 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the term—

Appropriate State official means the state attorney general, except that, in a State in which the state attorney general does not have responsibility for federal habeas corpus litigation, it means the chief executive of the State.

Competent counsel means counsel meeting state standards of competency for the appointment of counsel in state postconviction proceedings brought by indigent prisoners who have been sentenced to death.

State postconviction proceedings means collateral proceedings in state court, regardless of whether the State conducts such proceedings after or concurrently with direct state review.

§ 26.22 Certification.

(a) There are no requirements for certification or for application of chapter 154 other than those expressly stated in the chapter. An appropriate state official may request in writing that the Attorney General determine whether the State meets the requirements for certification expressly stated in chapter 154. If so requested, the Attorney General shall determine—

(1) Whether the State has established a mechanism for the appointment, compensation, and payment of reasonable litigation expenses of competent counsel in state postconviction proceedings brought by indigent prisoners who have been sentenced to death;

(2) The date on which the mechanism was established; and

(3) Whether the State provides standards of competency for the appointment of counsel in proceedings described in paragraph (1) of this section.

(b) As provided in 28 U.S.C. 2261(c), the mechanism must offer postconviction counsel to all indigent prisoners with capital sentences and must provide for the entry of an order by a court of record—

(1) Appointing one or more attorneys as counsel to represent the prisoner upon a finding that the prisoner is indigent and accepted the offer or is unable competently to decide whether to accept or reject the offer;

(2) Finding, after a hearing if necessary, that the prisoner rejected the offer of counsel and made the decision with an understanding of its legal consequences; or

(3) Denying the appointment of counsel, upon a finding that the prisoner is not indigent.

(c) The Attorney General shall determine whether to certify a State's capital counsel mechanism within the later of—

(1) 90 days after the Attorney General's receipt of the request for certification by the appropriate state official; or

(2) 90 days after the Attorney General publishes in the **Federal Register** a final rule, if the request for certification is received before the final rule is published in the **Federal Register**.

(d) The failure to make a determination within the applicable

time frame because of judicial interference or other circumstances beyond the Attorney General's control does not affect the validity of a later determination.

(e) If certification is granted, the certification will be published in the **Federal Register** and will identify the date on which the State established its qualifying capital counsel mechanism. Certification is a final determination by the Attorney General that the State meets the statutory requirements for certification. There is no authorization or procedure for suspending, reconsidering, revoking, or denying certification with respect to a State for which certification has been granted.

§ 26.23 Severability.

If any provision of this subchapter, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is found to be invalid, that shall not affect the validity of any other provision or application.

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Pamela Bondi,

Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 2026–05134 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 571

[Docket No. NHTSA–2026–0628]

RIN 2127–AM72

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Modernization of FMVSS No. 102 To Accommodate ADS-Equipped Vehicles

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: NHTSA is proposing to amend Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 102, ''Transmission shift position sequence, starter interlock, and transmission braking effect.'' The proposed modification would except vehicles equipped with Automated Driving Systems (ADS) that do not have manually operated driving controls from the requirement for a transmission shift position display. This rulemaking would remove unnecessary regulatory burdens and costs associated with a display designed to aid a person driving the vehicle. As the transmission shift position display does not fulfill the same safety need in an ADS-equipped vehicle without manually operated driving controls, the amendment will not impact vehicle safety. This action is part of a larger NHTSA effort to address vehicle automation in the agency's regulations.

DATES: Comments should be submitted no later than April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by the docket number in the heading of this document or by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *www.regulations.gov*. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the electronic docket site by clicking on ''Help'' or ''FAQ.''
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility. U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Suite W58–213, Washington, DC 20590 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366–9826 or (202) 366–9317 before coming.
- *Fax:* 202–493–2251.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number or Regulatory Information Number (RIN) for this rulemaking. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to *www.regulations.gov,* including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act discussion below. We will consider all comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments filed after the closing date.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to *www.regulations.gov* at any time or to 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. Telephone: 202–366–9826.

Confidential Business Information: If you claim that any of the information in your comment (including any additional documents or attachments) constitutes confidential business information within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) or is protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1905, please see the detailed instructions given under the Public Participation heading of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

Privacy Act: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to inform its decision-making process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to *www.regulations.gov,* as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at *www.transportation.gov/privacy.* To facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Regardless of whether commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be considered fully.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical issues, you may contact Ms. Lina Valivullah, Office of Automation Safety; Telephone: 202–366–1810; Email: *Lina.Valivullah@dot.gov;* Facsimile: 202–493–2739. For legal issues, you may contact Mr. David Jasinski, NHTSA Office of the Chief Counsel, Email: *David.Jasinski@dot.gov*. The mailing address of these officials is: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Executive Summary

This rulemaking focuses on vehicles equipped with Automated Driving Systems (ADS) that do not have manually operated driving controls. These vehicles currently are not available for consumer purchase; however, there is considerable investment into the safe testing, development, and validation of these vehicles, as well as localized deployment by manufacturers and rideshare operators. Vehicle automation technology has the potential to reduce roadway crashes and fatalities while increasing mobility. As the technology is still maturing, and many of the potential benefits are yet to be realized, NHTSA is engaging in a process to remove unnecessary barriers to technological innovation while ensuring motor vehicle safety is not compromised.

NHTSA seeks to address the application of certain existing crash avoidance standards to ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls. In this document, NHTSA proposes to amend Federal

Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 102, ''Transmission shift position sequence, starter interlock, and transmission braking effect.'' The proposed modification would except vehicles without manually operated driving controls from the requirement for a transmission shift position display. This rulemaking would remove the regulatory burdens and costs of a display that is unnecessary for an ADS-equipped vehicle without manually operated driving controls with no negative impact to vehicle safety.

NHTSA is working on multiple rulemakings to address requirements for ADS-equipped vehicles. This notice solely addresses a display requirement in FMVSS No. 102 for vehicles without manually operated driving controls. The proposed exception does not apply to ADS-equipped vehicles with manually operated driving controls.

II. Background

This proposed rule addresses ADS-equipped vehicles that do not have manually operated driving controls. An ADS commonly is considered to be a combination of hardware and software that can perform all real-time operational and tactical functions required to operate a vehicle on a sustained basis.[1] These functions traditionally are performed by a person using manually operated driving controls. As defined in 49 CFR 571.3 and used throughout this document, *manually operated driving controls* means a system of controls: (i) used by an occupant for real-time, sustained, manual manipulation of the motor vehicle's heading (steering) and/or speed (accelerator and brake); and (ii) positioned such that they can be used by an occupant, regardless of whether the occupant is actively using the system to manipulate the vehicle's motion. In an ADS-equipped vehicle designed to be operated only by an ADS, manually operated driving controls may not be necessary.

NHTSA has published prior **Federal Register** notices requesting comment, proposing changes, and updating existing regulations to address vehicle automation. These notices include a Request for Comment (RFC), ''Removing Regulatory Barriers for Vehicles with Automated Driving Systems,'' published on February 13, 2018,[2] and a subsequent Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) with the same title published on May 28, 2019.[3] The RFC posed questions about identifying and addressing regulatory barriers for vehicles that lack traditional manual controls or have unconventional seating. The ANPRM focused on the challenges of testing and verifying compliance for vehicles without traditional manual controls. A separate NPRM, ''Occupant Protection for Automated Driving Systems,''[4] was published in 2020, with the corresponding Final Rule, ''Occupant Protection for Vehicles with Automated Driving Systems,'' published on March 30, 2022.[5] The rulemaking focused on crashworthiness standards for ADS-equipped vehicles without manual driving controls, revising definitions and updating occupant protection standards to exclude vehicles specifically designed not to contain any occupants. The 2022 Final Rule also established the definition in 49 CFR 571.3 for *manually operated driving controls*. On December 3, 2020, NHTSA published an ANPRM titled, ''Framework for Automated Driving Systems,'' to discuss and request comment on the manner in which the agency would define, assess, and manage objectively the safety of ADS performance while ensuring the needed flexibility to enable further innovation.[6] The ANPRM included recognition of a phased approach to addressing ADS safety, including NHTSA's modernization of the FMVSS for ADS-equipped vehicles without traditional manual driving controls.

NHTSA proposes an exception to an existing requirement for ADS-equipped vehicles that do not contain manually operated driving controls and therefore cannot be driven by a person in the vehicle. ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls currently face regulatory barriers presented by requirements related to manual controls unnecessary for operation of the vehicle by the ADS. While vehicles not intended to be driven manually may not have manually operated driving controls, others may have manually operated driving controls if converted from a conventional vehicle or if equipped with controls for specialized use. NHTSA maintains that any vehicle equipped with manually operated driving controls must continue to meet all existing safety requirements, regardless of whether the vehicle is equipped with an ADS.

III. Proposed Change

Background

FMVSS No. 102, ''Transmission shift position sequence, starter interlock, and transmission braking effect,'' includes requirements to reduce the likelihood of shifting errors and unintended acceleration. The standard applies to passenger cars, multi-purpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses. Section S3.1.4 of FMVSS No. 102 requires that the transmission shift positions, including the positions in relation to each other and the position selected, be displayed in view of the driver when; (a) the ignition is in a position where the transmission can be shifted; or (b) the transmission is not in park. This information is displayed to minimize the likelihood of the driver shifting to the wrong position or mistaking what gear the vehicle is in. These driver errors can lead to unintended accelerations and crashes.

Proposal

In ADS-equipped vehicles that do not have manually operated driving controls, there is no safety need addressed by visually displaying the transmission shift positions because the shift position information is stored in, and the transmission shifting is controlled by, the ADS. A visual display of the transmission shift positions in such a vehicle is unnecessary and does not aid the safe operation of the vehicle because there is not a human driving the vehicle who could make errors related to shift position. The instantaneous transmission shift position display in an ADS-operated vehicle does not communicate future vehicle maneuvers and therefore provides no inherent safety benefit for people in or around the vehicle. Vehicle manufacturers may choose to remove the transmission shift position display to reduce visual clutter and to provide customizable displays for the occupants in ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls. Excepting ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls from the transmission shift position display requirement does not preclude manufacturers from displaying vehicle direction or transmission shift position information or including additional visual displays to enhance situation awareness for occupants.

For these reasons, NHTSA proposes to add a clause to S3.1.4.3 of FMVSS No. 102, excepting vehicles without manually operated driving controls from the shift position display requirement. The proposed change accommodates these vehicle designs without affecting

[1] *See, e.g.,* SAE, Taxonomy and Definitions for Terms Related to Driving Automation Systems for On-Road Motor Vehicles, J3016_202104 (April 30, 2021), *available at https://www.sae.org/standards/content/j3016_202104/*; Tex. Transp. Code § 545.451.

[2] 83 FR 6148.

[3] 84 FR 24433.

[4] 85 FR 17624.

[5] 87 FR 18560.

[6] 85 FR 78058.

vehicle safety. The proposed update would not affect the requirements for non-ADS vehicles or for ADS-equipped vehicles with manually operated driving controls. NHTSA requests comment regarding unintended safety implications not addressed in the proposal.

Proposed Effective Date

As provided by 49 U.S.C. 30111(d), an FMVSS may not become effective before the 180th day after the standard is prescribed or later than one year after it is prescribed. However, NHTSA may provide a different effective date after finding, for good cause shown, that a different effective date is in the public interest. NHTSA must publish the reasons supporting such a finding. Similarly, 5 U.S.C. 553(d) provides that a final rule cannot become effective until at least 30 days after the date of publication except, among other reasons, the rule grants or recognizes an exemption, relieves a restriction, or for good cause found and published with the rule. It is in the public interest for this proposed rule, if adopted, to be effective immediately. Because this proposed rule, if adopted, would remove an unnecessary regulatory requirement for ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated controls, there does not appear to be a need for lead time for regulated entities to comply. In addition, this proposed rule, if adopted, would provide an exemption and relieve a restriction for ADS-equipped vehicles. NHTSA seeks comment on whether the rule could be made effective within a time period shorter than 180 days or upon publication of any final rule.

IV. Request for Comment

NHTSA seeks public comment on the proposed changes to except vehicles without manually operated driver controls from S3.1.4.3 of FMVSS No. 102.

V. Rulemaking Analyses and Notices

Executive Order (E.O.) 12866, E.O. 14192, and E.O. 14219

NHTSA has considered the impact of this rulemaking action under Executive Orders 12866, 14192, and 14219. This proposed rule does not meet the criteria of a ''significant regulatory action'' under Executive Order 12866. Therefore, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has not reviewed this proposed rule under those orders. This proposed rule, if finalized as proposed, is expected to be an E.O. 14192 deregulatory action because it removes an unnecessary regulatory burden for the reasons discussed above. At this stage, the agency has not quantified any potential benefits or costs. For this rule, NHTSA does not anticipate any new regulatory costs, as it would remove unnecessary requirements without adding any new requirements. NHTSA does not anticipate any safety disbenefits for the proposed changes. The primary benefit of this rule would be reduced compliance costs. However, given the still-developing nature of this market, NHTSA cannot quantify the number of vehicles that may be potentially affected by this proposed rule. Further, without this regulatory change, NHTSA believes that these vehicles would seek exemptions from this standard, rather than include the unnecessary equipment. Finally, though NHTSA could seek to quantify compliance costs on a per-vehicle basis, any estimate based on traditional vehicle configurations may not be accurate, given the different design and nature of ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls. NHTSA requests comment on these assumptions and any other information that could help quantify their impacts in the final rule.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601–612) (as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) of 1996; 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), agencies must prepare and make available for public comment a regulatory flexibility analysis that describes the effect of the rulemaking on small entities (*i.e.,* small businesses, small organizations, and small government jurisdictions). No regulatory flexibility analysis is required, however, if the head of an agency or an appropriate designee certifies that the rulemaking will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. NHTSA has concluded and hereby certifies that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. As the factual basis for this certification, NHTSA finds as follows: As described elsewhere in the preamble, NHTSA proposes to remove unnecessary regulatory burdens and costs associated with a transmission shift position display unnecessary for an ADS-equipped vehicle without manually operated driving controls, with no negative impact to vehicle safety.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Department has analyzed the environmental impacts of this notice of proposed rulemaking pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Pursuant to 49 CFR 1.81, the Secretary has delegated the ''functions'' under NEPA to the Administrators ''as they relate to the matters within the primary responsibility of each Operating Administration.'' NHTSA has determined that this rule is categorically excluded pursuant to 23 CFR 771.118(c)(4). Categorical exclusions are actions identified in an agency's NEPA procedures that do not normally have a significant impact on the environment and therefore do not require either an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). *See* DOT Order 5610.1D § 9. In analyzing the applicability of a categorical exclusion, the agency must also consider whether extraordinary circumstances are present that would warrant the preparation of an EA or EIS. *Id.* at § 9(b). The Department's Operating Administrations (OAs) may apply CEs established in another OA's procedures. *Id.* at § 9(f). To do so, the Operating Administration ''must evaluate the action for extraordinary circumstances identified in the OA procedures in which the CE is established to determine if a normally excluded action may have a significant impact and coordinate with the originating OA to ensure that the CE is being applied correctly.'' *Id.* This rulemaking, which proposes to amend FMVSS No. 102, ''Transmission shift position sequence, starter interlock, and transmission braking effect,'' to exclude ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls from the requirement for a transmission shift position display, is categorically excluded pursuant to 23 CFR 771.118(c)(4): Planning and administrative activities not involving or leading directly to construction, such as: Training, technical assistance and research; promulgation of rules, regulations, directives, or program guidance; approval of project concepts; engineering; and operating assistance to transit authorities to continue existing service or increase service to meet routine demand. NHTSA has coordinated with the Federal Transit Administration to ensure that this CE is being applied correctly. NHTSA does not anticipate any environmental impacts, and there are no extraordinary circumstances present in connection with this rulemaking.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

NHTSA has examined this rule pursuant to Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999) and has tentatively concluded that no additional

consultation with States, local governments, or their representatives is mandated beyond the rulemaking process. The agency has tentatively concluded that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant consultation with State and local officials or the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. NHTSA expects that this rule, if adopted, would not have ''substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.''

NHTSA rules can have a preemptive effect in two ways. First, the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act contains an express preemption provision: When a motor vehicle safety standard is in effect under this chapter, a State or a political subdivision of a State may prescribe or continue in effect a standard applicable to the same aspect of performance of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment only if the standard is identical to the standard prescribed under this chapter. 49 U.S.C. 30103(b)(1). It is this statutory command by Congress that preempts any non-identical State legislative and administrative law addressing the same aspect of performance. NHTSA is not aware of any State motor vehicle equipment or inspection laws or regulations that require ADS-equipped vehicles that do not have manual driving controls to be equipped with transmission shift positions displays. However, NHTSA seeks comment on whether any such State requirements exist that would be preempted by this rule, if adopted.

The express preemption provision described above is subject to a savings clause under which compliance with a motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter does not exempt a person from liability at common law. 49 U.S.C. 30103(e). Pursuant to this provision, State common law tort causes of action against motor vehicle manufacturers that might otherwise be preempted by the express preemption provision generally are preserved.

NHTSA rules can also preempt State law if complying with the FMVSS would render the motor vehicle manufacturers liable under State tort law. Because most NHTSA standards established by an FMVSS are minimum standards, a State common law tort cause of action that seeks to impose a higher standard on motor vehicle manufacturers generally will not be preempted. If and when such a conflict does exist—for example, when the standard at issue is both a minimum and a maximum standard—the State common law tort cause of action is impliedly preempted. See *Geier* v. *American Honda Motor Co.,* 529 U.S. 861 (2000).

Pursuant to Executive Orders 13132 and 12988, NHTSA has considered whether this proposed rule would preempt State common law causes of action. The agency's ability to announce its conclusion regarding the preemptive effect of one of its rules reduces the likelihood that preemption will be an issue in any subsequent tort litigation. This rule simply proposes to allow for the removal of transmission shift position displays in ADS-equipped vehicles that do not have manual driving controls. These displays were intended only for a human driver operating a vehicle with manual driving controls, and do not serve a safety purpose for ADS-equipped vehicles that do not have manual driving controls. NHTSA believes that this change will have no effect on safety. Thus, NHTSA tentatively concludes that no conflict with State common law causes of action would occur. Without any conflict, there could not be any implied preemption of a State common law tort cause of action. NHTSA also seeks comment on this tentative conclusion.

Executive Order 12988 (Civil Justice Reform)

With respect to the review of the promulgation of a new regulation, section 3(b) of Executive Order 12988, ''Civil Justice Reform'' (61 FR 4729; Feb. 7, 1996), requires that Executive agencies make every reasonable effort to ensure that the regulation: (1) clearly specifies the preemptive effect; (2) clearly specifies the effect on existing Federal law or regulation; (3) provides a clear legal standard for affected conduct, while promoting simplification and burden reduction; (4) clearly specifies the retroactive effect, if any; (5) specifies whether administrative proceedings are to be required before parties file suit in court; (6) adequately defines key terms; and (7) addresses other important issues affecting clarity and general draftsmanship under any guidelines issued by the Attorney General. This document is consistent with these requirements.

Pursuant to this Order, NHTSA notes as follows. The issue of preemption is discussed above. NHTSA notes further that there is no requirement that individuals submit a petition for reconsideration or pursue other administrative proceedings before they may file suit in court. In addition, the rule provides a clear legal standard for compliance, while promoting simplification and burden reduction by excepting vehicles without manual controls from the requirements without any reduction in safety.

Privacy Act

Please note that anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). For information on DOT's compliance with the Privacy Act, see *www.transportation.gov/privacy*.

National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act

Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA), Public Law 104–113, as amended by Public Law 107–107 (15 U.S.C. 272), directs the agency to evaluate and use voluntary consensus standards in its regulatory activities unless doing so would be inconsistent with applicable law or is otherwise impractical. Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards (*e.g.,* materials specifications, test methods, sampling procedures, and business practices) developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, such as the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The NTTAA directs us to provide Congress (through OMB) with explanations when the agency decides not to use available and potentially applicable voluntary consensus standards.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), Public Law 104–4, requires Federal agencies to prepare a written assessment of the costs, benefits, and other effects of proposed or final rules that include a Federal mandate likely to result in the expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of more than $100 million annually (adjusted for inflation with base year of 1995). Adjusting this amount by the implicit gross domestic product price deflator for the year 2024 results in $187 million (125.224/66.937 = 1.87). This NPRM would not result in a cost of $187 million or more to either State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or the private sector. Thus, this NPRM is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 of the UMRA.

Executive Order 13609 (Promoting Regulatory Cooperation)

The policy statement in section 1 of Executive Order 13609 provides, in part: The regulatory approaches taken by foreign governments may differ from those taken by U.S. regulatory agencies to address similar issues. In some cases, the differences between the regulatory approaches of U.S. agencies and those of their foreign counterparts might not be necessary and might impair the ability of American businesses to export and compete internationally. In meeting shared challenges involving health, safety, labor, security, environmental, and other issues, international regulatory cooperation can identify approaches that are at least as protective as those that are or would be adopted in the absence of such cooperation. International regulatory cooperation can also reduce, eliminate, or prevent unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements.

In addition, section 24211 of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117–58), Global Harmonization, provides that DOT ''shall cooperate, to the maximum extent practicable, with foreign governments, nongovernmental stakeholder groups, the motor vehicle industry, and consumer groups with respect to global harmonization of vehicle regulations as a means for improving motor vehicle safety.'' [7]

The proposed amendment would except certain vehicles from current regulations and therefore does not implicate any issues regarding international regulatory cooperation.

Severability

The issue of severability of FMVSSs is addressed in 49 CFR 571.9. It provides that if any FMVSS or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the part and the application of that standard to other persons or circumstances is unaffected. Comments are requested on the severability of this proposed FMVSS.

Regulation Identifier Number

The Department of Transportation assigns a regulation identifier number (RIN) to each regulatory action listed in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations. The Regulatory Information Service Center publishes the Unified Agenda twice annually. You may use the RIN contained in the heading at the beginning of this document to find this action in the Unified Agenda.

[7] H.R. 3684 (117th Congress) (2021).

Rulemaking Summary, 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(4)

As required by 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(4), a summary of this rule can be found in the Abstract section of the Department's Unified Agenda entry for this rulemaking at *https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202504&RIN=2127-AM72*.

VI. Public Participation

How long do I have to submit comments?

Please see **DATES** section at the beginning of this document.

How do I prepare and submit comments?

- Your comments must be written in English.
- To ensure that your comments are correctly filed in the Docket, please include the Docket Number shown at the beginning of this document in your comments.
- Your comments must not be more than 15 pages long. (49 CFR 553.21). We established this limit to encourage you to write your primary comments in a concise fashion. However, you may attach necessary additional documents to your comments. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.
- If you are submitting comments electronically as a PDF (Adobe) File, NHTSA asks that the documents be submitted using the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) process, thus allowing NHTSA to search and copy certain portions of your submissions. Comments may be submitted to the docket electronically by logging onto the Docket Management System website at *www.regulations.gov.* Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- You may also submit your comments, including the attachments, to Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**.

Please note that pursuant to the Data Quality Act, in order for substantive data to be relied upon and used by the agency, it must meet the information quality standards set forth in the OMB and DOT Data Quality Act guidelines. Accordingly, we encourage you to consult the guidelines in preparing your comments. OMB's guidelines may be accessed at *http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/reproducible.html.* DOT's guidelines may be accessed at *http://www.bts.gov/programs/statistical_policy_and_research/data_quality_guidelines.*

How can I be sure that my comments were received?

If you wish Docket Management to notify you upon its receipt of your comments, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope containing your comments. Upon receiving your comments, Docket Management will return the postcard by mail.

How do I submit confidential business information?

You should submit a redacted ''public version'' of your comment (including redacted versions of any additional documents or attachments) to the docket using any of the methods identified under **ADDRESSES**. This ''public version'' of your comment should contain only the portions for which no claim of confidential treatment is made and from which those portions for which confidential treatment is claimed has been redacted. See below for further instructions on how to do this.

You also need to submit a request for confidential treatment directly to the Office of the Chief Counsel. Requests for confidential treatment are governed by 49 CFR part 512. Your request must set forth the information specified in Part 512. This includes the materials for which confidentiality is being requested (as explained in more detail below); supporting information, pursuant to Part 512.8; and a certificate, pursuant to Part 512.4(b) and Part 512, Appendix A.

You are required to submit to the Office of the Chief Counsel one unredacted ''confidential version'' of the information for which you are seeking confidential treatment. Pursuant to Part 512.6, the words ''ENTIRE PAGE CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION'' or ''CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN BRACKETS'' (as applicable) must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential. In the latter situation, where not all information on the page is claimed to be confidential, identify each item of information for which confidentiality is requested within brackets: ''[ ].''

You are also required to submit to the Office of the Chief Counsel one redacted ''public version'' of the information for which you are seeking confidential treatment. Pursuant to Part 512.5(a)(2), the redacted ''public version'' should include redactions of any information for which you are seeking confidential treatment (*i.e.,* the only information that should be unredacted is information for which you are not seeking confidential treatment).

NHTSA is currently treating electronic submission as an acceptable method for submitting confidential business information to the agency under Part 512. Please do not send a hardcopy of a request for confidential treatment to NHTSA's headquarters. The request should be sent to Dan Rabinovitz in NHTSA's Office of the Chief Counsel (NCC) at *Daniel.Rabinovitz@dot.gov.* You may either submit your request via email or request a secure file transfer link. Manufacturers or any companies that already have a Confidential Business Information (CBI) Portal account or an Enterprise Account with NHTSA should use the CBI Portal for their submission. If you submit a CBI request, please also email a courtesy copy of the request to David Jasinski at *David.Jasinski@dot.gov.*

Will the Agency consider late comments?

We will consider all comments that Docket Management receives before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above under **DATES**. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments that Docket Management receives after that date. If Docket Management receives a comment too late for us to consider in developing the final rule, we will consider that comment as an informal suggestion for future rulemaking action.

How can I read the comments submitted by other people?

You may read the comments received by Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**. The hours of the Docket are indicated above in the same location. You may also see the comments on the internet. To read the comments on the internet, go to *www.regulations.gov.* Follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets.

Please note that, even after the comment closing date, we will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available. Further, some people may submit late comments. Accordingly, we recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new material.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 571

Imports, Motor vehicle safety, Motor vehicles.

Proposed Regulatory Text

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA proposes to amend 49 CFR part 571 as set forth below:

PART 571—FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 571 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30117, and 30166; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.95.

■ 2. Section 571.102 is amended by revising S3.1.4.3, to read as follows:

§ 571.102 Standard No. 102; Transmission shift position sequence, starter interlock, and transmission braking effect.

S3.1.4.3 Such information need not be displayed when the ignition is in a position that is used only to start the vehicle, or in a vehicle without manually operated driving controls.

Issued on March 11, 2026, in Washington, DC, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.95.

Jonathan Morrison,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2026–05024 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 571

[Docket No. NHTSA–2026–0629]

RIN 2127–AM71

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Modernization of FMVSS No. 103 and FMVSS No. 104 To Accommodate ADS-Equipped Vehicles; Incorporation by Reference

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: NHTSA is proposing to amend Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) No. 103, ''Windshield defrosting and defogging systems,'' and FMVSS No. 104, ''Windshield wiping and washing systems.'' The proposed modifications would except vehicles equipped with Automated Driving Systems (ADS) that do not have manually operated driving controls from these standards. This rulemaking would remove unnecessary regulatory burdens and costs associated with systems intended to provide visibility for a person driving the vehicle. As these systems do not fulfill the same safety need on an ADS-equipped vehicle without manually operated driving controls, the proposed changes are not expected to have adverse safety effects. Manufacturers may still provide these systems if they choose to do so. These actions are part of a larger NHTSA effort to address vehicle automation in the agency's regulations. This proposal would also harmonize FMVSS Nos. 103 and 104 with current industry standards through incorporations by reference.

DATES: Comments should be submitted no later than April 15, 2026.

Proposed Effective Date: Vehicles manufactured 180 days after the publication date of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by the docket number in the heading of this document or by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the electronic docket site by clicking on ''Help'' or ''FAQ.''
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility. U.S. Department of Transportation. 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Suite W58–213, Washington, DC 20590 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366–9826 or (202) 366–9317 before coming.
- *Fax:* 202–493–2251.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number or Regulatory Information Number (RIN) for this rulemaking. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to *www.regulations.gov,* including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act discussion below. We will consider all comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments filed after the closing date.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to *www.regulations.gov* at any time or to 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. Telephone: 202–366–9826.

Confidential Business Information: If you claim that any of the information in your comment (including any additional documents or attachments) constitutes confidential business information within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) or is protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1905, please see the detailed instructions given under the

Public Participation heading of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

Privacy Act: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to inform its decision-making process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to *www.regulations.gov,* as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at *www.transportation.gov/privacy.* To facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Regardless of whether commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be considered fully.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical issues, you may contact Ms. Lina Valivullah, Office of Automation Safety; Telephone: 202–366–1810; Email: *Lina.Valivullah@dot.gov;* Facsimile: 202–493–2739. For legal issues, you may contact Mr. David Jasinski, NHTSA Office of the Chief Counsel, Email: *David.Jasinski@dot.gov.* The mailing address of these officials is: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Executive Summary

This rulemaking focuses on vehicles equipped with Automated Driving Systems (ADS) that do not have manually operated driving controls. These vehicles currently are not available for consumer purchase; however, there is considerable investment into the safe testing, development, and validation of these vehicles, as well as localized deployment by manufacturers and rideshare operators. Vehicle automation technology has the potential to reduce roadway crashes and fatalities while increasing mobility. As the technology is still maturing, and many of the potential benefits are yet to be realized, NHTSA is engaging in a process to remove unnecessary barriers to technological innovation while ensuring motor vehicle safety is not compromised.

NHTSA seeks to address the application of certain existing crash avoidance standards to ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls. In this document, NHTSA proposes to amend Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 103, ''Windshield defrosting and defogging systems,'' and FMVSS No. 104, ''Windshield wiping and washing systems.'' The proposed modifications would except vehicles without manually operated driving controls from these standards. This rulemaking would remove the regulatory burdens and costs of systems unnecessary for an ADS-equipped vehicle without manually operated driving controls with no negative impact to vehicle safety. These actions are part of a larger NHTSA effort to address vehicle automation in the agency's regulations.

This notice further proposes to harmonize FMVSS Nos. 103 and 104 with current industry standards through updated incorporations by reference. These proposed updates are unrelated to the proposed exceptions for ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls. If all proposed changes to FMVSS Nos. 103 and 104 in this NPRM are finalized, updated requirements will apply to passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses. However, vehicles without manually operated driving controls will be excepted from the standards.

II. Background

This proposed rule addresses ADS-equipped vehicles that do not have manually operated driving controls. An ADS commonly is considered to be a combination of hardware and software that can perform all real-time operational and tactical functions required to operate a vehicle on a sustained basis.[1] These functions traditionally are performed by a person using manually operated driving controls. As defined in 49 CFR 571.3 and used throughout this document, *manually operated driving controls* means a system of controls: (i) used by an occupant for real-time, sustained, manual manipulation of the motor vehicle's heading (steering) and/or speed (accelerator and brake); and (ii) positioned such that they can be used by an occupant, regardless of whether the occupant is actively using the system to manipulate the vehicle's motion. In an ADS-equipped vehicle designed to be operated only by an ADS, manually operated driving controls may not be necessary.

NHTSA has published prior **Federal Register** notices requesting comment, proposing changes, and updating existing regulations to address vehicle automation. These notices include a Request for Comment (RFC), ''Removing Regulatory Barriers for Vehicles with Automated Driving Systems,'' published on February 13, 2018,[2] and a subsequent Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) with the same title published on May 28, 2019.[3] The RFC posed questions about identifying and addressing regulatory barriers for vehicles that lack traditional manual controls or have unconventional seating. The ANPRM focused on the challenges of testing and verifying compliance for vehicles without traditional manual controls. A separate NPRM, ''Occupant Protection for Automated Driving Systems,'' [4] was published in 2020, with the corresponding Final Rule, ''Occupant Protection for Vehicles with Automated Driving Systems,'' published on March 30, 2022.[5] The rulemaking focused on crashworthiness standards for ADS-equipped vehicles without manual driving controls, revising definitions and updating occupant protection standards to exclude vehicles specifically designed not to contain any occupants. The 2022 Final Rule also established the definition in 49 CFR 571.3 for *manually operated driving controls.* On December 3, 2020, NHTSA published an ANPRM titled, ''Framework for Automated Driving Systems,'' to discuss and request comment on the manner in which the agency would define, assess, and manage objectively the safety of ADS performance while ensuring the needed flexibility to enable further innovation.[6] The ANPRM included recognition of a phased approach to addressing ADS safety, including NHTSA's modernization of the FMVSS for ADS-equipped vehicles without traditional manual driving controls.

NHTSA proposes exceptions to existing requirements for ADS-equipped

[1] *See, e.g.,* SAE, Taxonomy and Definitions for Terms Related to Driving Automation Systems for On-Road Motor Vehicles, J3016_202104 (April 30, 2021), *available at https://www.sae.org/standards/content/j3016_202104/;* Tex. Transp. Code § 545.451.

[2] 83 FR 6148.

[3] 84 FR 24433.

[4] 85 FR 17624.

[5] 87 FR 18560.

[6] 85 FR 78058.

vehicles that do not contain manually operated driving controls and therefore cannot be driven by a person in the vehicle. ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls currently face regulatory barriers presented by requirements related to manual controls unnecessary for operation of the vehicle by the ADS. While vehicles not intended to be driven manually may not have manually operated driving controls, others may have manually operated driving controls if converted from a conventional vehicle or if equipped with controls for specialized use. NHTSA maintains that any vehicle equipped with manually operated driving controls must continue to meet all existing safety requirements, regardless of whether the vehicle is equipped with an ADS.

III. Proposed Changes

A. Excepting ADS-Equipped Vehicles Without Manually Operated Driving Controls From FMVSS Nos. 103 and 104

Background

FMVSS No. 103, ''Windshield defrosting and defogging systems,'' was established to specify requirements for providing the driver visibility through the vehicle windshield during frosting and fogging conditions.[7] It requires that passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses each have a windshield defrosting and defogging system. FMVSS No. 104, ''Windshield wiping and washing systems,'' specifies requirements for windshield wiping and washing systems for the same purpose of providing the driver visibility through the vehicle windshield. It requires vehicles to have a power-driven windshield wiping system that clears portions of the windshield at regular intervals.

Proposal

These standards contain requirements to ensure driver forward visibility in a variety of operating conditions. FMVSS Nos. 103 and 104 are both premised on the assumption that a person needs an unobstructed view through the windshield to safely operate the vehicle and were designed to meet this safety need. NHTSA is proposing to amend FMVSS Nos. 103 and 104 to address the application of the standards to ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls. Specifically, language would be added to the application section in each standard to except vehicles without manually operated driving controls from the standard. The standards would still apply to vehicles with manually operated driving controls, regardless of the presence of an ADS.

Excepting ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls from FMVSS Nos. 103 and 104 is not expected to have substantive adverse safety effects, as the standards are intended to provide visibility for a person driving the vehicle. Without an explicit safety need, NHTSA tentatively finds it impracticable to subject ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls to these standards. Manufacturers may still find it appropriate to install windshield defrosting, defogging, wiping, and washing systems for reasons such as passenger visibility, awareness, comfort, and convenience, though there would be no obligation for the systems to meet the FMVSS performance requirements. Manufacturers may also elect to utilize alternative windshield clearing systems or alternative means of providing exterior visibility or information about the outside world to occupants (*e.g.,* utilizing cameras already installed on the vehicle to provide visibility through screens). NHTSA anticipates that this proposal could lead to reduced regulatory costs from reduced components and labor.

While the proposal would relieve certain vehicles from meeting the requirements of FMVSS Nos. 103 and 104, manufacturers of ADS equipment and ADS-equipped vehicles would still be responsible for ensuring that ADS-equipped vehicles are free of unreasonable safety risks. An ADS incorporates sensors to monitor the vehicle surroundings. Failure to monitor ADS sensor performance and to clear sensor obstructions to maintain functionality could constitute a vehicle safety defect. Similarly, a manufacturer would be expected to provide a means for safe occupant egress, through visibility to the outside world or other means (*e.g.,* utilizing sensors on the vehicle to identify and warn departing occupants of hazards). NHTSA requests comment regarding unintended safety implications not addressed in the proposal.

B. Updating and Harmonizing FMVSS Nos. 103 and 104 Test Procedures

1. FMVSS No. 103

Background

FMVSS No. 103 specifies performance requirements and test procedures for passenger car windshield defrosting and defogging systems, incorporating by reference SAE Recommended Practices J902 (1964) and J902a (1967), ''Passenger Car Windshield Defrosting Systems.'' The FMVSS allows use of the test procedure in either J902 (1964) or J902a (1967), as the differences are minor and the FMVSS specifies additional parameters and modifications to the SAE test procedures. FMVSS No. 103 also uses areas of the windshield defined in FMVSS No. 104, ''Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems,'' for the windshield clearing requirements, rather than the areas specified by the SAE Recommended Practices.

The SAE Recommended Practice J902 (2025), ''Passenger Vehicle Windshield Demisting and Defrosting Systems,'' has been updated to clarify the requirements, address different vehicle propulsion systems, and include the additional specifications of FMVSS No. 103. The primary differences between the specifications currently incorporated by reference and those of the 2025 SAE Recommended Practice are the temperature range, the minimum percent area to be defrosted, and the time intervals. The temperature range for the test changed from [−18 °C ± 3 °C] to [−18 °C + 3 °C/−10 °C]. The SAE-specified minimum percentages of the windshield to be defrosted were originally 80% of ''the critical area'' after 20 minutes and 95% of ''the entire windshield'' after 40 minutes. FMVSS No. 103 substitutes Area C for ''the critical area'' and Area A for ''the entire windshield.'' The current J902 (2025) uses the Area C and Area A as in FMVSS No. 103 and summarily updates percentage and time as follows: 100% of Area C and 80% of Area A shall be defrosted after 30 minutes.

Proposal

The current version of SAE J902 (2025) incorporates the additional test method specifications from FMVSS No. 103, sections S4.3 (a) through (h), noting where the requirements are specific to the FMVSS. NHTSA believes that vehicle manufacturers are already referencing the updated industry standard to ensure that their vehicles meet the requirements of FMVSS No. 103. Updating FMVSS No. 103 to incorporate by reference the current SAE J902 (2025) rather than the historic 1964 and 1967 versions will streamline and harmonize the standard with the industry best practices.

For these reasons, NHTSA proposes modifying the requirements in S4 of FMVSS No. 103 as follows. In S4.2, SAE Recommended Practice J902 (2025) would replace J902 (1964), and the windshield areas A and C would be those established in accordance with FMVSS No. 104. For the demonstration procedure in S4.3, SAE Recommended

[7] 32 FR 2408.

Practice J902 (2025) would replace J902 (1964) and J902a (1967). As the current SAE industry standard has incorporated the parameters of the existing FMVSS No. 103, the remainder of S4.3 would no longer be necessary and could be removed to simplify the standard without changing the requirements. NHTSA seeks comment on these proposed changes.

2. FMVSS No. 104

a. Definitions

Background

FMVSS No. 104 provides definitions for *daylight opening, glazing surface reference line, overall width, plan view reference line, shoulder room dimension,* and *95 percent eye range contour.* These definitions incorporate by reference section E, ''Ground Vehicle Practice,'' of SAE Aerospace-Automotive Drawing Standards (1963), SAE Recommended Practice J903a (1966), and SAE Recommended Practice J941 (1965).

Proposal

NHTSA believes it is appropriate to update FMVSS No. 104 by removing extraneous information and updating the matter incorporated by reference. While *glazing surface reference line, plan view reference line, shoulder room dimension,* and *95 percent eye range contour* are currently defined in FMVSS No. 104, these terms are not used within the standard, so NHTSA proposes to remove these unused definitions. NHTSA also intends to simplify the definitions of *daylight opening* and *overall width.*

Daylight opening is defined in FMVSS No. 104 as ''the maximum unobstructed opening through the glazing surface, as defined in paragraph 2.3.12 of section E, ''Ground Vehicle Practice,'' of SAE Aerospace-Automotive Drawing Standards (1963).'' In modernizing FMVSS No. 104, NHTSA proposes to remove this historical reference. NHTSA believes that it is unnecessary to provide an updated reference in this instance because the definition of *daylight opening* is in accordance with general use. NHTSA also proposes to simplify the definition of *overall width* by stating that it means the same as *overall vehicle width,* which is already defined in § 571.3; additional references and further definition are unnecessary.

b. Requirements

Background

FMVSS No. 104 incorporates by reference the test procedures from SAE Recommended Practice J903a (1966) for windshield wiper systems and SAE Recommended Practice J942 (1965) for windshield washer systems. For passenger vehicles, the FMVSS requirements state the percent area that must be cleared by the wipers within certain zones of the windshield when tested per the SAE procedures. These zones or areas of the windshield are defined within FMVSS No. 104, using the location of the driver's seat to infer the viewing angles of the driver. Specifically, referencing SAE Recommended Practice J903a (1966) in combination with the driver eye range contour specified in SAE Recommended Practice J941 (1965), FMVSS No. 104 establishes Areas A, B, and C of the vehicle windshield. Each area is defined using angles left, right, up, and down from the presumed location of the driver's eyes. Slightly greater angles are specified for larger vehicle widths. The standard states the minimum percent of each area (A, B, C) that must be wiped by the windshield wiping system when tested wet in accordance with SAE Recommended Practice J903a (1966). FMVSS No. 104 also requires vehicles to have a windshield washing system that meets the requirements of SAE Recommended Practice J942 (1965), with minor modifications.

Proposal

NHTSA proposes to modernize FMVSS No. 104 by updating which versions of industry standards are incorporated by reference. NHTSA is not proposing to change the wiping frequency requirements or wiped area tables specified in subsection S4.1 of FMVSS No. 104.

SAE Recommended Practice J903 (2024) is the most recent version of the industry standard for ground vehicle windshield wiper systems. The windshield wiping system test specifications in SAE Recommended Practice J903 (2024) are not significantly different from those in the currently referenced SAE Recommended Practice J903a (1966). Within SAE J903 (2024), the 95th percentile tangent cutoff eyellipse of SAE Recommended Practice J941 (2010) is used for eye range. The eyellipse terminology and values in SAE Recommended Practice J941 (2010) are not identical to those in SAE J941 (1965). However, the industry standard was updated over time to better represent the driving population. NHTSA believes it is appropriate to use the most recent calculations. For these reasons, NHTSA proposes to replace the original SAE J903a (1966) incorporated by reference with the current SAE Recommended Practice J903 (2024).

For the windshield washing test, the procedure in SAE J942 has changed significantly. The original SAE J942 (1965) procedure involved applying a mixture of fine grade test dust and water (in a 1:2 ratio by volume) and evaluating the washer system within 15 seconds of application. The current SAE J942 (1999) specifies applying a mixture of 92.5% tap water, 5% saturated salt water, and 2.5% coarse grade test dust by volume and allowing it to dry completely before wiping. The specified windshield areas must be cleared within 5 wiper cycles, rather than the previous 10 cycles, and the minimum wash areas have changed. To modernize the FMVSS, NHTSA proposes to incorporate by reference SAE J942 (1999) in place of the 1965 version, and requests comment on the effects of this change. Comments providing supporting data, *e.g.* test data from both the historical and updated SAE windshield washing procedures for comparison.

IV. Request for Comment

NHTSA seeks public comment on the proposed changes to except vehicles without manually operated driver controls from the application of the standards and the revised test procedures it plans to incorporate by reference. The revised test procedures in the SAE Recommended Practices are believed to be in practice by manufacturers currently, and NHTSA has proposed an effective date 180 days after publication of any final rule; comments on the suitability of this effective date are requested.

V. Rulemaking Analyses and Notices

Executive Order (E.O.) 12866, E.O. 14192, and E.O. 14219

NHTSA has considered the impact of this rulemaking action under Executive Orders 12866, 14192, and 14219. This proposed rule does not meet the criteria of a ''significant regulatory action'' under Executive Order 12866. Therefore, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has not reviewed this proposed rule under those orders. This proposed rule, if finalized as proposed, is expected to be an E.O. 14192 deregulatory action because it removes an unnecessary regulatory burden. At this stage, the agency has not quantified any potential benefits or costs. For this rule, NHTSA does not anticipate any new regulatory costs, as it would remove unnecessary requirements without adding any new requirements. NHTSA does not anticipate any safety disbenefits since, as discussed above, the standards at issue here do not fulfill the same safety need for ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated

driving controls. The benefits to this rule would be reduced compliance costs. However, given the still-developing nature of this market, NHTSA cannot quantify the number of vehicles that may be affected by this proposed rule. Though NHTSA could seek to quantify compliance costs on a per-vehicle basis, any estimate based on traditional vehicle configurations may not be accurate, given the different design and nature of ADS-equipped vehicles without manually operated driving controls. NHTSA requests comment on these assumptions, including any information that could help quantify their impacts in the final rule.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601–612) (as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) of 1996; 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), agencies must prepare and make available for public comment a regulatory flexibility analysis that describes the effect of the rulemaking on small entities (*i.e.,* small businesses, small organizations, and small government jurisdictions). No regulatory flexibility analysis is required, however, if the head of an agency or an appropriate designee certifies that the rulemaking will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. NHTSA has concluded and hereby certifies that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. As the factual basis for this certification, NHTSA finds as follows: As described elsewhere in the preamble, NHTSA proposes to remove unnecessary regulatory burdens and costs associated with windshield defrosting and defogging systems and windshield wiping and washing systems unnecessary for an ADS-equipped vehicle without manually operated driving controls, with no negative impact to vehicle safety.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Department has analyzed the environmental impacts of this notice of proposed rulemaking pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*). Pursuant to 49 CFR 1.81, the Secretary has delegated the ''functions'' under NEPA to the Administrators ''as they relate to the matters within the primary responsibility of each Operating Administration.'' NHTSA has determined that this rule is categorically excluded pursuant to 23 CFR 771.118(c)(4). Categorical exclusions are actions identified in an agency's NEPA procedures that do not normally have a significant impact on the environment and therefore do not require either an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). *See* DOT Order 5610.1D § 9. In analyzing the applicability of a categorical exclusion, the agency must also consider whether extraordinary circumstances are present that would warrant the preparation of an EA or EIS. *Id.* at § 9(b). The Department's Operating Administrations (OAs) may apply CEs established in another OA's procedures. *Id.* at § 9(f). To do so, the Operating Administration ''must evaluate the action for extraordinary circumstances identified in the OA procedures in which the CE is established to determine if a normally excluded action may have a significant impact and coordinate with the originating OA to ensure that the CE is being applied correctly.'' *Id.* This rulemaking, which proposes to amend FMVSSs No. 103 and No. 104, ''Windshield defrosting and defogging systems'' and ''Windshield wiping and washing systems,'' to except vehicles equipped with ADS that do not have manually operated driving controls from these standards, is categorically excluded pursuant to 23 CFR 771.118(c)(4): Planning and administrative activities not involving or leading directly to construction, such as: Training, technical assistance and research; promulgation of rules, regulations, directives, or program guidance; approval of project concepts; engineering; and operating assistance to transit authorities to continue existing service or increase service to meet routine demand. NHTSA has coordinated with the Federal Transit Administration to ensure that this CE is being applied correctly. NHTSA does not anticipate any environmental impacts, and there are no extraordinary circumstances present in connection with this rulemaking.

Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation

The policy statement in section 1 of Executive Order 13609 provides that the regulatory approaches taken by foreign governments may differ from those taken by the United States to address similar issues, and that in some cases the differences between them might not be necessary and might impair the ability of American businesses to export and compete internationally. It further recognizes that in meeting shared challenges involving health, safety, and other issues, international regulatory cooperation can identify approaches that are at least as protective as those that are or would be adopted in the absence of such cooperation and can reduce, eliminate, or prevent unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements.

In addition, section 24211 of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117–58), Global Harmonization, provides that DOT ''shall cooperate, to the maximum extent practicable, with foreign governments, nongovernmental stakeholder groups, the motor vehicle industry, and consumer groups with respect to global harmonization of vehicle regulations as a means for improving motor vehicle safety.'' [8] In this NPRM, the agency is proposing to harmonize with industry standards recognized globally as best practices; therefore, this proposal does not implicate any issues regarding international regulatory cooperation.

Executive Order 13132 (Federalism)

NHTSA has examined this rule pursuant to Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999) and has tentatively concluded that no additional consultation with States, local governments, or their representatives is mandated beyond the rulemaking process. The agency has tentatively concluded that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant consultation with State and local officials or the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. NHTSA expects that this rule, if adopted, would not have ''substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.''

NHTSA rules can have a preemptive effect in two ways. First, the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act contains an express preemption provision: When a motor vehicle safety standard is in effect under this chapter, a State or a political subdivision of a State may prescribe or continue in effect a standard applicable to the same aspect of performance of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment only if the standard is identical to the standard prescribed under this chapter. 49 U.S.C. 30103(b)(1). It is this statutory command by Congress that preempts any non-identical State legislative and administrative law addressing the same aspect of performance. NHTSA is not aware of any State motor vehicle equipment or inspection laws or regulations that require ADS-equipped

[8] H.R. 3684 (117th Congress) (2021).

vehicles to be equipped with windshield wiping, washing, and defrosting systems that clear an area intended to accommodate the vision of a human operator relying on manual controls. However, NHTSA seeks comment on whether any such State requirements exist that would be preempted by this rule, if adopted.

The express preemption provision described above is subject to a savings clause under which compliance with a motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter does not exempt a person from liability at common law. 49 U.S.C. 30103(e). Pursuant to this provision, State common law tort causes of action against motor vehicle manufacturers that might otherwise be preempted by the express preemption provision generally are preserved.

NHTSA rules can also preempt State law if complying with the FMVSS would render the motor vehicle manufacturers liable under State tort law. Because most NHTSA standards established by an FMVSS are minimum standards, a State common law tort cause of action that seeks to impose a higher standard on motor vehicle manufacturers generally will not be preempted. If and when such a conflict does exist—for example, when the standard at issue is both a minimum and a maximum standard—the State common law tort cause of action is impliedly preempted. See *Geier* v. *American Honda Motor Co.,* 529 U.S. 861 (2000).

Pursuant to Executive Orders 13132 and 12988, NHTSA has considered whether this proposed rule would preempt State common law causes of action. The agency's ability to announce its conclusion regarding the preemptive effect of one of its rules reduces the likelihood that preemption will be an issue in any subsequent tort litigation. This rule addresses the application to vehicles without manual driving controls of requirements that a specified area of the windshield be cleared by a windshield wiping, washing, and defrosting to ensure visibility by a human driver, which do not serve a safety purpose for ADS-equipped vehicles that do not have manual driving controls. NHTSA believes that this change will have no effect on safety. Thus, NHTSA tentatively concludes that no conflict with State common law tort actions would occur. Without any conflict, there could not be any implied preemption of a State common law tort cause of action. NHTSA also seeks comment on this tentative conclusion.

Executive Order 12988 (Civil Justice Reform)

With respect to the review of the promulgation of a new regulation, section 3(b) of Executive Order 12988, ''Civil Justice Reform'' (61 FR 4729; Feb. 7, 1996), requires that Executive agencies make every reasonable effort to ensure that the regulation: (1) clearly specifies the preemptive effect; (2) clearly specifies the effect on existing Federal law or regulation; (3) provides a clear legal standard for affected conduct, while promoting simplification and burden reduction; (4) clearly specifies the retroactive effect, if any; (5) specifies whether administrative proceedings are to be required before parties file suit in court; (6) adequately defines key terms; and (7) addresses other important issues affecting clarity and general draftsmanship under any guidelines issued by the Attorney General. This document is consistent with these requirements.

Pursuant to this Order, NHTSA notes as follows. The issue of preemption is discussed above. NHTSA notes further that there is no requirement that individuals submit a petition for reconsideration or pursue other administrative proceedings before they may file suit in court. In addition, the rule provides a clear legal standard for compliance and updates to the most current industry standards, while promoting simplification and burden reduction by excepting vehicles without manual controls from the requirements without any reduction in safety.

Privacy Act

Please note that anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). For information on DOT's compliance with the Privacy Act, see *www.transportation.gov/privacy.*

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), Public Law 104–4, requires Federal agencies to prepare a written assessment of the costs, benefits, and other effects of proposed or final rules that include a Federal mandate likely to result in the expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of more than $100 million annually (adjusted for inflation with base year of 1995). Adjusting this amount by the implicit gross domestic product price deflator for the year 2024 results in $187million (125.224/66.937 = 1.87). This NPRM would not result in a cost of $187 million or more to either State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or the private sector. Thus, this NPRM is not subject to the requirements of sections 202 of the UMRA.

Severability

The issue of severability of FMVSSs is addressed in 49 CFR 571.9. It provides that if any FMVSS or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the part and the application of that standard to other persons or circumstances is unaffected. Comments are requested on the severability of these proposed FMVSS changes.

Incorporation by Reference

Under regulations issued by the Office of the Federal Register (1 CFR 51.5(a)), an agency, as part of a proposed rule that includes material incorporated by reference, must summarize the material that it plans to incorporate by reference and discuss the ways the material is reasonably available to interested parties or how the agency worked to make materials available to interested parties.

In this NPRM, NHTSA is proposing to incorporate by reference three documents into the Code of Federal Regulations.

The first document is SAE Recommended Practice J902 (2025), ''Passenger Vehicle Windshield Demisting and Defrosting Systems,'' replacing SAE Recommended Practices J902 (1964), ''Passenger Car Windshield Defrosting Systems,'' and J902a (1967), ''Passenger Car Windshield Defrosting Systems,'' incorporated by reference into FMVSS No. 103. The SAE Recommended Practices J902 (2025), J902 (1964), and J902a (1967) contain specifications for test procedures for windshield defrosting.

The second document is SAE Recommended Practice J903 (2024), ''Ground Vehicle Windshield Wiper Systems,'' replacing SAE Recommended Practice J903a (1966), ''Passenger Car Windshield Wiper Systems,'' incorporated by reference into FMVSS No. 104. This standard contains test procedures for windshield wiper systems.

The third document is SAE Recommended Practice J942 (1999), ''Passenger Car Windshield Washer Systems,'' replacing SAE Recommended Practice J942 (1965), ''Passenger Car Windshield Washer Systems,'' incorporated by reference into FMVSS No. 104. This standard establishes test

procedures for windshield washer systems.

All three documents would be incorporated by reference as replacements for outdated versions of the recommended practices. The SAE materials are available for review at NHTSA's headquarters in Washington, DC and are available from SAE.[9]

NHTSA is proposing to remove the incorporation by reference to SAE Recommended Practice J941 (1965), ''Passenger Car Driver's Eye Range,'' and SAE Aerospace-Automotive Drawing Standards (1963).

Regulation Identifier Number

The Department of Transportation assigns a regulation identifier number (RIN) to each regulatory action listed in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations. The Regulatory Information Service Center publishes the Unified Agenda twice annually. You may use the RIN contained in the heading at the beginning of this document to find this action in the Unified Agenda.

Rulemaking Summary, 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(4)

As required by 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(4), a summary of this rule can be found in the Abstract section of the Department's Unified Agenda entry for this rulemaking at *https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202504&RIN=2127-AM71.*

National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act

Under the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA) (Pub. L. 104–113), ''all Federal agencies and departments shall use technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, using such technical standards as a means to carry out policy objectives or activities determined by the agencies and departments.'' Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards (*e.g.,* materials specifications, test methods, sampling procedures, and business practices) developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, such as SAE (formerly, the Society of Automotive Engineers). The NTTAA directs this agency to provide Congress, through OMB, explanations when the agency decides not to use available and applicable voluntary consensus standards.

The agency is proposing to incorporate by reference SAE Recommended Practice J902 (2025) into FMVSS No. 103 and SAE Recommended Practice J903 (2024) into FMVSS No. 104.

VI. Public Participation

How long do I have to submit comments?

Please see **DATES** section at the beginning of this document.

How do I prepare and submit comments?

- Your comments must be written in English.
- To ensure that your comments are correctly filed in the Docket, please include the Docket Number shown at the beginning of this document in your comments.
- Your comments must not be more than 15 pages long. (49 CFR 553.21). We established this limit to encourage you to write your primary comments in a concise fashion. However, you may attach necessary additional documents to your comments. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.
- If you are submitting comments electronically as a PDF (Adobe) File, NHTSA asks that the documents be submitted using the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) process, thus allowing NHTSA to search and copy certain portions of your submissions. Comments may be submitted to the docket electronically by logging onto the Docket Management System website at *www.regulations.gov.* Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- You may also submit your comments, including the attachments, to Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**.

Please note that pursuant to the Data Quality Act, for substantive data to be relied upon and used by the agency, it must meet the information quality standards set forth in the OMB and DOT Data Quality Act guidelines. Accordingly, we encourage you to consult the guidelines in preparing your comments. OMB's guidelines may be accessed at *http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/reproducible.html.* DOT's guidelines may be accessed at *http://www.bts.gov/programs/statistical_policy_and_research/data_quality_guidelines.*

How can I be sure that my comments were received?

If you wish Docket Management to notify you upon its receipt of your comments, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope containing your comments. Upon receiving your comments, Docket Management will return the postcard by mail.

How do I submit confidential business information?

You should submit a redacted ''public version'' of your comment (including redacted versions of any additional documents or attachments) to the docket using any of the methods identified under **ADDRESSES**. This ''public version'' of your comment should contain only the portions for which no claim of confidential treatment is made and from which those portions for which confidential treatment is claimed has been redacted. See below for further instructions on how to do this.

You also need to submit a request for confidential treatment directly to the Office of the Chief Counsel. Requests for confidential treatment are governed by 49 CFR part 512. Your request must set forth the information specified in Part 512. This includes the materials for which confidentiality is being requested (as explained in more detail below); supporting information, pursuant to Part 512.8; and a certificate, pursuant to Part 512.4(b) and Part 512, Appendix A.

You are required to submit to the Office of the Chief Counsel one unredacted ''confidential version'' of the information for which you are seeking confidential treatment. Pursuant to Part 512.6, the words ''ENTIRE PAGE CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION'' or ''CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN BRACKETS'' (as applicable) must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential. In the latter situation, where not all information on the page is claimed to be confidential, identify each item of information for which confidentiality is requested within brackets: ''[ ].''

You are also required to submit to the Office of the Chief Counsel one redacted ''public version'' of the information for which you are seeking confidential treatment. Pursuant to part 512.5(a)(2), the redacted ''public version'' should include redactions of any information for which you are seeking confidential treatment (*i.e.,* the only information that should be unredacted is information for which you are not seeking confidential treatment).

NHTSA is currently treating electronic submission as an acceptable method for submitting confidential business information to the agency under Part 512. Please do not send a hardcopy of a request for confidential treatment to NHTSA's headquarters. The request should be sent to Dan Rabinovitz in NHTSA's Office of the

[9] SAE Recommended Practices may be purchased online at *https://www.sae.org.*

Chief Counsel (NCC) at *Daniel.Rabinovitz@dot.gov.* You may either submit your request via email or request a secure file transfer link. Manufacturers or any companies that already have a Confidential Business Information (CBI) Portal account or an Enterprise Account with NHTSA should use the CBI Portal for their submission. If you submit a CBI request, please also email a courtesy copy of the request to David Jasinski at *David.Jasinski@dot.gov.*

Will the Agency consider late comments?

We will consider all comments that Docket Management receives before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above under **DATES**. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments that Docket Management receives after that date. If Docket Management receives a comment too late for us to consider in developing the final rule, we will consider that comment as an informal suggestion for future rulemaking action.

How can I read the comments submitted by other people?

You may read the comments received by Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**. The hours of the Docket are indicated above in the same location. You may also see the comments on the internet. To read the comments on the internet, go to *www.regulations.gov.* Follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets.

Please note that, even after the comment closing date, we will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available. Further, some people may submit late comments. Accordingly, we recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new material.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 571

Motor vehicles, Motor vehicle safety, Incorporation by reference.

Proposed Regulatory Text

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA proposes to amend 49 CFR part 571 as set forth below.

PART 571—FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 571 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30117, and 30166; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.95.

■ 2. Section 571.5 is amended by:
■ a. Revising paragraphs (l)(29) and (l)(30);
■ b. Removing paragraph (l)(31);
■ c. Redesignating paragraph (l)(32) as paragraph (l)(31);
■ d. Removing paragraph (l)(33);
■ e. Redesignating paragraphs (l)(34) through (l)(50) as paragraphs (l)(32) through (l)(48), respectively;
■ f. Revising the redesignated paragraph (l)(33);
■ g. Removing paragraph (l)(51).

The revisions read as follows:

§ 571.5 Matter incorporated by reference.

* * * * *

(l) * * *

(29) SAE Recommended Practice J902, ''Passenger Vehicle Windshield Demisting and Defrosting Systems,'' revised June 2025, into § 571.103.

(30) SAE Recommended Practice J903, ''Ground Vehicle Windshield Wiper Systems,'' revised October 2024, into § 571.104.

* * * * *

(33) SAE Recommended Practice J942, ''Passenger Car Windshield Washer Systems,'' revised June 1999, into § 571.104.

* * * * *

■ 3. Section 571.103 is amended by:
■ a. Revising paragraph S2,
■ b. Revising paragraph S4.2,
■ c. Revising paragraph S4.3, and
■ d. Removing S4.3 (a) through (h).

The revisions read as follows:

§ 571.103 Standard No. 103; Windshield defrosting and defogging systems.

* * * * *

S2. *Application.* This standard applies to passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses. Vehicles without manually operated driving controls are excepted from this standard.

* * * * *

S4.2 Each passenger car windshield defrosting and defogging system shall meet the requirements of Section 4.1 of SAE Recommended Practice J902, ''Passenger Vehicle Windshield Demisting and Defrosting Systems,'' revised June 2025, (incorporated by reference, see § 571.5) when tested in accordance with S4.3, except that the windshield areas A and C identified in Appendix A of SAE J902 shall be those established in accordance with § 571.104.

S4.3 *Demonstration procedure.* The passenger car windshield defrosting and defogging system shall be tested in accordance with the portions of paragraphs 5.1 through 5.2.1.25 of SAE Recommended Practice J902 applicable to that system, including all specifications denoted as ''SAE/FMVSS'' or ''FMVSS.''

■ 4. Section 571.104 is amended by:
■ a. Revising paragraph S2,
■ b. Amending S3 by revising the definitions of ''Daylight opening'' and ''Overall width'' and removing the definitions of ''Glazing surface reference line,'' ''Plan view reference line,'' ''Shoulder room dimension,'' and ''95 percent eye range contour,''
■ c. Revising subparagraph S4.1.1.4, and
■ d. Revising S4.1.2.

The revisions read as follows:

§ 571.104 Standard No. 104; Windshield wiping and washing systems.

* * * * *

S2. *Application.* This standard applies to passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses. Vehicles without manually operated driving controls are excepted from this standard.

S3. * * *

Daylight opening means the maximum unobstructed opening through the glazing surface.

Overall width means the same as *overall vehicle width,* defined in § 571.3.

S4. * * *

S4.1.1.4 Compliance with subparagraphs S4.1.1.2 and S4.1.1.3 may be demonstrated by testing under the conditions specified in sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 of SAE Recommended Practice J903, ''Ground Vehicle Windshield Wiper Systems,'' revised October 2024, (incorporated by reference, see § 571.5).

S4.1.2 *Wiped area.* When tested wet in accordance with SAE Recommended Practice J903, each passenger car windshield wiping system shall wipe the percentage of Areas A, B, and C of the windshield (established in accordance with S4.1.2.1) that: (1) is specified in column 2 of the applicable table following subparagraph S4.1.2.1; and (2) is within the area bounded by a perimeter line on the glazing surface 25 millimeters from the edge of the daylight opening.

S4.1.2.1 Areas A, B, and C shall be established as shown in Figure 6 of SAE Recommended Practice J903 using the angles specified in Columns 3 through 6 of Table I, II, III, or IV, as applicable.

* * * * *

S4.2.1 Each passenger car shall have a windshield washing system that meets the requirements of SAE Recommended Practice J942, ''Passenger Car Windshield Washer Systems,'' revised June 1999, (incorporated by reference, see § 571.5), except that the text, ''80% of the total wash area and 90% of the wash area included in area C as defined in SAE J903 for passenger cars and SAE J198 for trucks, buses, and multipurpose vehicles'' shall be deleted and ''the

areas established in accordance with subparagraph S4.1.2.1 of Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 104'' shall be inserted in lieu thereof.

S4.2.2 Each multipurpose passenger vehicle, truck, and bus shall have a windshield washing system that meets the requirements of SAE Recommended Practice J942 (incorporated by reference, see § 571.5), except that the text, ''80% of the total wash area and 90% of the wash area included in area C as defined in SAE J903 for passenger cars and SAE J198 for trucks, buses, and multipurpose vehicles'' shall be deleted and ''the pattern designed by the manufacturer for the windshield wiping system on the exterior surface of the windshield glazing'' shall be inserted in lieu thereof.

Issued on March 11, 2026, in Washington, DC, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.95.

Jonathan Morrison,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2026–05023 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 260311–0069]

RTID 0648–XF489

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; 2026 Chub Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Specifications

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes specifications for the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), as recommended by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). This action proposes new 2026 and projected 2027–2028 specifications for the chub mackerel and *Illex* squid fisheries and reaffirms previously-projected 2026 specifications for the longfin squid and butterfish fisheries. These specifications are intended to establish allowable harvest levels that will prevent overfishing, consistent with the most recent scientific information.

DATES: Public comments must be received by April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: A plain language summary of this proposed rule is available at: *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NMFS-2025-0768.* You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2025–0768, by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Visit *https://www.regulations.gov* and type NOAA–NMFS–2025–0768 in the Search box. Click on the ''Comment'' icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing at: *https://www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter ''N/A'' in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Fenton, Fishery Policy Analyst, (978) 281–9196.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

NMFS manages the Atlantic mackerel, chub mackerel, *Illex* squid, longfin squid, and butterfish fisheries pursuant to the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (the FMP) in consultation with the Council. Regulations implementing the FMP appear at 50 CFR part 648, subpart B. In 2024, the most recent year for which complete revenue data are available, the FMP supported commercial fisheries producing an overall $41.9 million in revenues.

Section 302(g)(1)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) states that the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for each regional fishery management council shall provide its council with ongoing scientific advice for fishery management decisions, including recommendations for acceptable biological catch (ABC), preventing overfishing, ensuring maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and achieving rebuilding targets. The ABC is a level of catch that accounts for the scientific uncertainty in the estimate of the stock's defined overfishing limit (OFL). Specifications regulations at § 648.22 require the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Monitoring Committee (Monitoring Committee) to meet annually to develop specifications recommendations for each species managed under the FMP. The Council must review these suggestions, as well as any public comments regarding them, and recommend to the Regional Administrator specifications and additional measures necessary to assure that annual catch limits (ACL) will not be exceeded.

NMFS proposes to implement the Council's recommended chub mackerel and *Illex* squid fishery specifications and reaffirms the intention to implement previously-projected 2026 longfin squid and butterfish fishery specifications pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which authorizes the Secretary to implement management measures necessary to carry out an approved fishery management plan. Specifications for Atlantic mackerel will be proposed through a separate rulemaking.

Fishery Specifications

Proposed 2026 and Projected 2027–2028 Chub Mackerel Fishery Specifications

Chub mackerel has never been assessed, and recent efforts to develop a data-limited assessment approach for the stock were unsuccessful. In May 2025, the SSC reviewed: (1) updated fishery data; (2) Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Advisory Panel (AP) input; and (3) staff recommendations for chub mackerel. Since the stock was added to the FMP in 2020, the ABC has been held constant at 2,300 metric tons (mt). There is little biological information available for chub mackerel, but, given that the species tends to be highly productive in other parts of the world and vessels in the Greater Atlantic Region are relatively limited in their ability to target the stock, the SSC determined that it was unlikely that overfishing would occur under the existing ABC. Because of this consideration, and because there was insufficient new information to justify changes to the ABC, the SSC recommended maintaining the 2,300 mt ABC during 2026–2028.

The Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Monitoring Committee reviewed the SSC's ABC advice and recommended keeping the remaining chub mackerel specifications status quo during 2026–2028. During its June 2025 meeting, the Council reviewed: (1) updated fishery data; (2) AP, SSC, and Monitoring Committee advice; and (3) staff recommendations and recommended that NMFS maintain the status quo chub mackerel specifications during 2026–2028 (table 1). We are proposing to

adopt the Council's recommended specifications for chub mackerel.

TABLE 1—PROPOSED 2026 AND PROJECTED 2027–2028 CHUB MACKEREL FISHERY SPECIFICATIONS

[In mt]

Specification	2025	Proposed 2026	Projected 2027–2028
ABC	2,300	2,300	2,300
ACL	2,262	2,262	2,262
Annual catch target (ACT)	2,171	2,171	2,171
Total allowable landings (TAL)	2,041	2,041	2,041

Proposed 2026 and Projected 2027–2028 Illex Squid Fishery Specifications

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (Science Center) completed the most recent management track assessment for *Illex* squid in June 2025. There is no accepted stock assessment model for *Illex* squid; therefore, reference points for the stock cannot be determined and stock status continues to be unknown. Updated fishery data revealed that average annual U.S. landings of *Illex* squid during 2022–2024 (5,920 mt per year) were lower than average annual landings during the full 1987–2024 time series (13,365 mt per year). Additionally, fall survey biomass during 2022–2024 (0.49 kilograms (kg) per tow) was lower than average fall survey biomass during the full 1987–2024 time series (1.30 kg per tow).

To accompany the assessment, the Science Center also produced a report evaluating alternative 2025 catch limits for the *Illex* squid fishery. Because there are no biological reference points for the *Illex* squid stock, this report uses alternative metrics (*i.e.,* escapement level and the ratio of fishing mortality (F) to natural mortality (M)) to estimate the risk of overfishing at different ABC levels. This approach has been used by the SSC for establishing *Illex* squid ABCs since 2020, and the most recent version of the report incorporates updated data through 2024.

In July 2025, the SSC reviewed the results of the assessment and the alternative catch limit report and recommended maintaining a status quo ABC of 40,000 mt during 2026–2028. The SSC determined that a 40,000-mt ABC would result in a low probability of the fishery falling below an escapement threshold of 40 percent (*i.e.,* the threshold used in management of other global squid fisheries) and only a moderate risk of exceeding an F:M ratio of 2:3 (*i.e.,* the threshold used to manage other forage finfish species). Because of this, the SSC concluded that a 40,000-mt ABC was likely to result in a low risk of overfishing. Additionally, given the high level of uncertainty associated with the *Illex* squid stock assessment and the alternative catch limit analyses, the SSC determined that an increase in the ABC was not justified.

The Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Monitoring Committee reviewed the SSC's ABC advice and recommended keeping the remainder of the *Illex* fishery specifications status quo during 2026–2028. The commercial discard set-aside (1,369 mt) was calculated based on average annual discards during 2018–2019, a time when the *Illex* squid fishery was highly productive and observer coverage was relatively high. The Monitoring Committee concluded that maintaining a discard set-aside that was calculated based on data from this time period should help to ensure that catch stays below the ABC should *Illex* squid become highly available again in the future. During its August 2025 meeting, the Council reviewed: (1) updated fishery data; (2) AP, SSC, and Monitoring Committee advice; and (3) staff recommendations and recommended that NMFS maintain the status quo *Illex* squid specifications during 2026–2028 (table 2). We are proposing to adopt the Council's recommended specifications for *Illex* squid.

TABLE 2—PROPOSED 2026 AND PROJECTED 2027–2028 ILLEX SQUID FISHERY SPECIFICATIONS

[mt]

Specification	2025	Proposed 2026	Projected 2027–2028
OFL	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
ABC	40,000	40,000	40,000
Commercial discard set-aside	1,369	1,369	1,369
Commercial discard set-aside (percent)	3.42%	3.42%	3.42%
Initial optimum yield (IOY)	38,631	38,631	38,631
Research set-aside (RSA) *	0	0	0
Domestic annual harvest (DAH)/domestic annual processing (DAP)	38,631	38,631	38,631

* The Council's RSA program has been suspended since 2014.

Reaffirmed 2026 Longfin Squid Fishery Specifications

Projected 2026 longfin squid fishery specifications were set through the final rule implementing 2024–2026 specifications for the FMP (July 23, 2024, 89 FR 59678).

During its May 2025 meeting, the SSC reviewed updated fishery data, AP input, and staff recommendations for longfin squid. A longfin squid research track assessment is currently ongoing and scheduled to be completed this year. The Science Center's most recent management track assessment for longfin squid in 2023 indicated that the stock is not overfished and it is unknown whether overfishing is occurring. Survey and fishery data suggest that longfin squid abundance has fluctuated but remained relatively stable, with no clear trends displayed over time. The SSC concluded that there

was insufficient new information to justify changes to the ABC and recommended maintaining the projected ABC of 23,400 mt for 2026.

The Monitoring Committee reviewed the SSC's ABC advice and recommended reaffirming the remaining 2026 longfin squid specifications as projected. During its June 2025 meeting, the Council reviewed: (1) updated fishery data; (2) AP, SSC, and Monitoring Committee advice; and (3) staff recommendations and recommended that NMFS reaffirm the projected 2026 longfin squid specifications without changes. Relative to the 2025 longfin squid specifications, the reaffirmed 2026 specifications would remain status quo (tables 3 and 4). We are announcing our intention to adopt the Council's recommendation to reaffirm the projected 2026 longfin squid specifications.

TABLE 3—REAFFIRMED 2026 LONGFIN SQUID FISHERY SPECIFICATIONS

[mt]

Specification	2025	Reaffirmed 2026
OFL	Unknown	Unknown
ABC	23,400	23,400
Commercial discard set-aside	506.3	506.3
Commercial discard set-aside (%)	2.16%	2.16%
IOY	22,893.70	22,893.70
RSA *	0	0
DAH/DAP	22,893.70	22,893.70

* The Council's RSA program has been suspended since 2014.

TABLE 4—REAFFIRMED 2026 LONGFIN SQUID QUOTA TRIMESTER ALLOCATIONS

Trimester	Percent of quota	Metric tons
I (January–April)	43	9,844.30
II (May–August)	17	3,891.90
III (September–December)	40	9,157.50
Total	100	22,893.70

Reaffirmed 2026 Butterfish Fishery Specifications

Projected 2026 butterfish fishery specifications were set through the final rule implementing 2025–2026 specifications for the FMP (90 FR 45674; September 23, 2025). During its May 2025 meeting, the SSC reviewed updated fishery data, AP input, and staff recommendations for butterfish. According to the Science Center's most recent 2024 management track assessment, butterfish is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The assessment also indicated that spawning stock biomass is well above the biomass target and fishing mortality is well below the overfishing threshold proxy, but it acknowledged that there is considerable uncertainty associated with estimates of natural mortality and survey catchability. The SSC noted that while the exact scale of the population is unknown, stock status is perceived to be favorable and catch has remained well below allowable levels in recent years. Therefore, the SSC concluded that there was insufficient new information to justify changes to the ABC and recommended maintaining the projected ABC of 13,842 mt for 2026.

The Monitoring Committee reviewed the SSC's ABC advice and recommended reaffirming the remaining 2026 butterfish specifications as projected. During its June 2025 meeting, the Council reviewed: (1) updated fishery data; (2) AP, SSC, and Monitoring Committee advice; and (3) staff recommendations and recommended that NMFS reaffirm the projected 2026 butterfish specifications without changes (tables 5 and 6). We are announcing our intention to adopt the Council's recommendation to reaffirm the prior projected 2026 butterfish specifications.

TABLE 5—REAFFIRMED 2026 BUTTERFISH FISHERY SPECIFICATIONS

[mt]

Specification	2025	Reaffirmed 2026
OFL	17,587	14,224
ABC/ACL	17,115	13,842
ACT buffer	0	0
ACT buffer (%)	0	0%
ACT	17,115	13,842
RSA *	0	0
Total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF)	0	0
Butterfish cap in longfin squid fishery	3,884	3,884
Assumed other discards	1,907	1,907
Total discard set-aside (all sources)	5,791	5,791
DAH/DAP	11,324	8,051
Closure threshold (amount caught)	10,324	7,051

* The Council's RSA program has been suspended since 2014.

TABLE 6—REAFFIRMED 2026 ALLOCATION OF THE BUTTERFISH MORTALITY CAP

Trimester	Percent	Metric tons
I (January–April)	43	1,670
II (May–August)	17	660
III (September–December)	40	1,554
Total	100	3,884

The reaffirmed 2026 butterfish fishery specifications would be reduced relative to the 2025 specifications. The ABC, ACL, and ACT would decrease by 19 percent, and the DAH would decrease by 29 percent. However, in recent years commercial butterfish landings have been well below the DAH and catch has been well below the ACL, so these reductions in butterfish fishery specifications are not expected to be limiting for the fishery.

Classification

NMFS is issuing this rule pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1855(d)). In a previous action taken pursuant to section 304(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1854(b)), the FMP and implementing regulations created the process by which specifications are developed through a NMFS rulemaking process distinct from that of 304(b). See 50 CFR 648.22. The NMFS Assistant Administrator has determined that this proposed rule is consistent with the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP, other provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law, subject to further consideration after public comment.

This proposed rule is exempt from review under Executive Order (E.O.) 12866.

This proposed rule is exempt from E.O. 14192 because it is not significant under E.O. 12866.

The Chief Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce certified to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration that this proposed rule, if adopted, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The purpose, context, and statutory basis for this action is described above and not repeated here. Business entities affected by this action include vessels that are issued Federal limited access and/or open access commercial Atlantic mackerel, *Illex* squid, longfin squid, or butterfish permits. In order to fish for, possess, or land chub mackerel from the Exclusive Economic Zone portion of the Atlantic Chub Mackerel Management Unit, a vessel must be issued a Federal mackerel, squid, or butterfish permit. Therefore, although Atlantic mackerel fishery specifications are not included in this action, vessels that are issued Federal Atlantic mackerel permits are included as business entities affected by this action because those vessels may use their Atlantic mackerel permits in order to access chub mackerel. Additionally, although recreational chub mackerel catch also counts against the chub mackerel ACL that would be implemented through this action, vessels that are issued charter/party permits for mackerel, squid, and butterfish are not expected to be impacted by this action because it does not contain changes to management measures specific to recreational fishing.

In 2015, NMFS issued a final rule establishing a small business size standard of $11 million in annual gross receipts for all businesses primarily engaged in the commercial or for-hire fishing industry (North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code 11411) for Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) compliance purposes only. The $11 million standard became effective on July 1, 2016. The RFA defines a small business in either the commercial or for-hire fishery as a firm that is independently owned and operated with receipts of less than $11 million annually. Individually permitted vessels may hold permits for several fisheries, harvesting species of fish that are regulated by several different fishery management plans, even beyond those impacted by the proposed action. Furthermore, multiple permitted vessels and/or permits may be owned by entities affiliated by stock ownership, common management, identity of interest, contractual relationships, or economic dependency.

For the purposes of this analysis, ''ownership entities'' are defined as those entities with common ownership as listed on the permit application. On June 1 of each year, ownership entities are identified based on a list of all permits for the most recent complete calendar year. The current ownership dataset is based on the calendar year 2024 permits and contains average gross sales associated with those permits for calendar years 2020 through 2024. In 2024, there were 1,650 active Federal commercial mackerel, squid, and butterfish permits. Approximately 1,241 entities held these permits, and based on NMFS size standards, 1,232 would be qualified as small business entities.

Fishing revenue and, therefore, the economic impacts of annual chub mackerel, *Illex* squid, longfin squid, and butterfish specifications depend upon species availability and ex-vessel price, which may change annually. This action is not expected to have negative impacts on any participating entities. The chub mackerel, *Illex* squid, and longfin squid fishery specifications that would be implemented through this action would remain status quo relative to 2025. The 2026 butterfish specifications that would be reaffirmed through this action would be reduced relative to 2025. However, in recent years commercial butterfish landings have been well below the DAH. From 2019–2024, only 6.2–24.5 percent of the DAH was caught annually, which resulted in annual landings ranging from 718–3,442 mt. Because the reaffirmed 2026 butterfish specifications would be substantially higher than recent annual butterfish landings, implementation of these new specifications is not expected to result in a reduction in butterfish fishery landings. Therefore, the reaffirmed 2026 butterfish fishery specifications are not expected to be limiting for participating entities because they would still allow for a higher harvest level than the fishery has recently achieved. For this reason, the proposed 2026 butterfish specifications are not expected to result in negative economic impacts for participating entities.

In determining the significance of the economic impacts of the proposed action, NMFS considered the following two criteria outlined in applicable NMFS guidance: (1) disproportionality; and (2) profitability. The chub mackerel, *Illex* squid, and longfin squid fishery specifications for 2026 would remain status quo relative to the 2025 specifications and are therefore not expected to have an economic impact on any of the fishery participants. Additionally, the 2026 butterfish specifications are not expected to have an economic impact on any of the

fishery participants because NMFS expects the actual landings to remain lower than what the proposed specifications would permit based on the landings from 2019–2024. Because there are no expected economic impacts on any of the fishery participants, there would be no disproportionate economic effects from this action between small and large entities. The proposed measures would not: (1) reduce fishing opportunities relative to recent chub mackerel, *Illex* squid, longfin squid, or butterfish landings; (2) change any entity's access to these resources; or (3) impose any costs on affected entities. Therefore, the proposed measures also would not result in reduced profitability for affected entities. As a result, an initial regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and none has been prepared.

This proposed rule contains no information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

NMFS has determined that this action would not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian Tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes; therefore, consultation with Tribal officials under E.O. 13175 is not required, and the requirements of sections (5)(b) and (5)(c) of E.O. 13175 also do not apply. A Tribal summary impact statement under section (5)(b)(2)(B) and section (5)(c)(2)(B) of E.O. 13175 is not required and has not been prepared.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 648

Fisheries, Fishing, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05050 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

Notices

Federal Register
Vol. 91, No. 50
Monday, March 16, 2026

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS–SC–26–0067]

Tart Cherries Grown in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin; Continuance Referendum

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Referendum order.

SUMMARY: This document directs that a referendum be conducted among eligible tart cherry growers and processors to determine whether they favor continuance of the marketing order regulating the handling of tart cherries grown in the states of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

DATES: The referendum will be conducted from March 30 through April 20, 2026. Only current tart cherry growers and processors who have grown or processed cherries within the production area during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, are eligible to vote in this referendum.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the marketing order may be obtained from the office of the referendum agents at 1124 First Street South, Winter Haven, FL 33880; telephone: (863) 324–3375; or from the Docket Clerk, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, STOP 0237, Washington, DC 20250–0237; telephone (202) 720–8085; or on the internet: *https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-IX/part-930.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven W. Kauffman, Marketing Specialist, or Christian D. Nissen, Branch Chief, Southeast Region Branch, Market Development Division, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, 1124 First Street South, Winter Haven, FL 33880; telephone: (863) 324–3375, or email: *Steven.Kauffman@usda.gov* or *Christian.Nissen@usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Marketing Order No. 930, as amended (7 CFR part 930; the Order), and the applicable provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 601–674) (the Act), it is hereby directed that a referendum be conducted to ascertain whether continuance of the Order is favored by tart cherry growers and processors in the states of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin, § 930.83(d). The referendum will be conducted from March 30 through April 20, 2026, among tart cherry growers and processors in the production area. Only current tart cherry growers and processors that were engaged in the production or processing of tart cherries during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, may participate in the continuance referendum.

USDA has determined that continuance referenda are an effective means for determining whether growers favor the continuation of marketing order programs. USDA will consider termination of the Order if less than 50 percent of the growers and processors voting in the referendum, and less than 50 percent of the tart cherry volume represented in the referendum, vote in favor of continuance. In evaluating the merits of continuance versus termination, USDA will not exclusively consider the results of the continuance referendum. USDA will also consider all other relevant information concerning the operation of the Order and relative benefits and costs to growers, processors, and consumers to determine whether continued operation of the Order would tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the ballot materials used in the referendum have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and have been assigned OMB No. 0581–0177, Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin. It has been estimated it will take an average of 20 minutes for each of the approximately 330 tart cherry growers and 30 processors to cast a ballot. Participation is voluntary. Ballots postmarked after April 20, 2026, will not be included in the vote tabulation.

Steven Kauffman, Delaney Fuhrmeister, Rebecca Geller, Jennie Varela, and Christian Nissen of the Southeast Region Branch, Specialty Crops Program, AMS, USDA, are hereby designated as the referendum agents of the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct this referendum. The procedure applicable to the referendum shall be the ''Procedure for the Conduct of Referenda in Connection with Marketing Orders for Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts Pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as Amended'' (7 CFR part 900.400 *et seq.*).

Ballots and voting instructions will be sent by U.S. mail, or through electronic mail, to all tart cherry growers and processors of record and may also be obtained from the referendum agents or their appointees.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

Erin Morris,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05096 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Marketing Service

[Doc. No. AMS–FTPP–25–0453]

Amendment to Certification of Oklahoma's Central Filing System

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In response to a request from the Oklahoma County Clerk's Office, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has approved amendments to the State of Oklahoma's Central Filing System. Oklahoma's amendments transfer authority of the Central Filing System from the Oklahoma Secretary of State to the Oklahoma County Clerk. Oklahoma's amendments will make Effective Financing Statements available for the public on the Clerk's Office website within 48 hours of being recorded. Additionally, the Oklahoma County Clerk's Office will create new document types within its existing UCC electronic filing system that will allow

it to accept Effective Financing Statement filings electronically.

DATES: This notice is applicable March 16, 2026.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Packers and Stockyards Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service administers the Clear Title Program on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Clear Title Program is authorized by section 1324 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1631), which requires States implementing central filing system for notification of liens on farm products have such systems certified by the Secretary of Agriculture.

A list of the states with certified central filing systems is available on the AMS website at *https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/food-security-act/clear-title.* Farm products covered by a State's central filing system are also identified through the AMS website. The Oklahoma central filing system covers all farm products.

The Department of Agriculture originally certified the central filing system for Oklahoma on December 29, 1987 (52 FR 49056). The certification was last amended on February 5, 2001 (66 FR 13876). The Oklahoma County Clerk Office requested its certification be amended to transfer statutory authority of the central filing system for effective financing statements from the Oklahoma Secretary of State to the Oklahoma County Clerk's office.

The Oklahoma County Clerk will oversee the amended central filing system including electronic filings of effective financing statements that owners of security interests would file with the Clerk's existing Uniform Commercial Code Central Filing System. In the central filing system, filers have the option of uploading completed documents or using an online fillable form. For paper filings, documents are to be mailed to the County Clerk's office accompanied by payment. The documents are then scanned, processed and officially recorded. Each document will be assigned a unique instrument number. Once recorded, the original document will be returned to the customer along with a receipt indicating the instrument number. Documents are to be returned to the customer by mail or in person, depending on how they were submitted.

This notice announces AMS approval of the amended certification for Oklahoma's central filing system.

(Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1631, 7 CFR 2.22(a)(3)(v) and 2.81(a)(5), and 9 CFR 205.101.)

Erin Morris,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05095 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

March 12, 2026.

The Department of Agriculture will submit the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 on or after the date of publication of this notice. Comments are requested regarding: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by April 15, 2026. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Title: Agricultural Surveys Program—Substantive Change.

OMB Control Number: 0535–0213.

Summary of Collection: General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204 which specifies that ''The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain . . . by the collection of statistics . . .''. The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is to provide data users with timely and reliable agricultural production and economic statistics, as well as environmental and specialty agricultural related statistics. To accomplish this objective, NASS relies on the use of diverse surveys that show changes within the farming industry over time.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is requesting a substantive change to the Agricultural Surveys Program information collection request (OMB No. 0535–0213) to increase the sample size for the Crop Acreage and Grain Stocks (Quarterly Agricultural Surveys), reinstate the Agricultural Coverage Evaluation Survey (ACES), and update the June Area Survey questionnaire to be fully compliant with Statistical Policy directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD–15). The changes in this request increase burden hours.

Need and Use of the Information: The surveys provide the basis for estimates of the current season's crop and livestock production and supplies of grain in storage. Crop and livestock statistics help develop a stable economic atmosphere and reduce risk for production, marketing, and distribution operations. These commodities affect the well-being of the nation's farmers, commodities markets, and national and global agricultural policy. Users of agricultural statistics are farm organizations, agribusiness, state and national farm policy makers, and foreign buyers of agricultural products but the primary user of the statistical information is the producer. Agricultural statistics are also used to plan and administer other related federal and state programs in such areas as school lunch program, conservation, foreign trade, education, and recreation. Collecting the information less frequent would eliminate needed data to keep the government and agricultural

industry abreast of changes at the state and national levels.

Description of Respondents: Farms and Ranches.

Number of Respondents: 596,600.

Frequency of Responses: Reporting: Quarterly; Semi-annually; Monthly; Annually.

Total Burden Hours: 206,959.

Levi S. Harrell,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–05094 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–20–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Agriculture has submitted the following information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13. Comments are requested regarding; whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments regarding this information collection received by April 15, 2026 will be considered. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Food and Nutrition Service

Title: 7 CFR Part 235—State Administrative Expense (SAE) Funds.

OMB Control Number: 0584–0067.

Summary of Collection: This is a reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired. The authority for this collection is provided in Section 7 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 888, 889, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1776, 1779). As required, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued regulations in 7 CFR part 235, which prescribes the methods for making payments of funds to State agencies to use for administrative expenses incurred in overseeing and providing technical assistance in connection with activities undertaken under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the Special Milk Program (SMP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Food Distribution Program (FDP). This information collection is required to administer these Programs in accordance with the Act. For this reinstatement, FNS adjusted the number of respondents for the reporting requirement at 235.7(b) and adjusted the frequency of the recordkeeping responses for the recordkeeping requirement at 235.7(a) for the FNS–525 form. Although this is a reinstatement and as such is not reducing the burden, FNS estimates that these changes would have reduced the responses and burden hours for this collection.

Need and Use of the Information: This is a mandatory information collection. Under this collection, FNS collects the information necessary for making payments of funds to State agencies to use for the administrative expenses incurred in supervising and providing technical assistance in connection with the activities undertaken by them under the NSLP, SMP, SBP, CACFP, and the FDP. The Federal regulations in 7 CFR part 235 SAE Funds require the collection of information associated with this collection. The respondents for reporting information and for maintaining the records consist of the State educational agencies and the alternate State agencies that have agreements with FNS for the administration of NSLP, SBP, SMP, CACFP, FDP or some combination thereof. This information is collected through written agreements that cover the operation of the Program during a specified period; State Administrative Expense plans that outline funding and activities; State Administrative Expense Funds Reallocation Reports that describe the use of SAE funds and which are used to reallocate SAE funds; and annual reports containing information on the number of School Food Authorities under agreement with the State agency to participate in the National School Lunch or Commodity School Programs. Under this collection, State agencies also maintain current accounting records of State administrative expense funds which identify fund authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays, and income.

Description of Respondents: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 83.

Frequency of Responses: Recordkeeping; Reporting: Annually, Quarterly, Semi-annually, and bi-weekly.

Total Burden Hours: 2,155.

Rachelle Ragland-Greene,

Departmental Information Collection Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–05055 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–30–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the New Jersey Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice of virtual business meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that the New Jersey Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public meeting via Zoom. The purpose is for the committee to discuss the Proposal Stage on the committee's chosen topic of antisemitism and civil rights, potentially approve their Project Proposal, and begin discussing the Implementation Stage as time permits.

DATES: Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES:

Registration Link (Audio/Visual): https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN__RhMZTgnQ5-9IRR0L4-rkA.

Join by Phone (Audio Only): 1–833–435–1820 USA Toll Free; Webinar ID: 160 221 3951 #.

Agenda Link: https://usccr.box.com/s/ulvh1c6ia7ot0fodj0ckdjurtshs4hun

(note: final agenda will be available prior to the meeting date).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Moreno, Designated Federal Officer, at *vmoreno@usccr.gov* or 1–434–515–0204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Committee meetings are available to the public through a registration link (above). Any interested members of the public may attend committee meetings. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make oral statements as time allows. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, public minutes of each meeting will include a list of persons who are present. If joining via phone, callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Closed captioning is available by selecting ''CC'' in the meeting platform. To request additional accommodations, please email *ebohor@usccr.gov* at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the scheduled meeting. Written comments may be emailed to Evelyn Bohor at *ebohor@usccr.gov.* Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at 1–202–656–8937.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Coordination Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meetings will be available via the file sharing website, *https://tinyurl.com/3ev8d9n9* as well as at: *www.facadatabase.gov* under the Commission on Civil Rights, selecting the Advisory Committee of interest. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, *http://www.usccr.gov,* or may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at *ebohor@usccr.gov*.

Dated: March 12, 2026.

David Mussatt,

Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

[FR Doc. 2026–05062 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meetings of the Colorado Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meetings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that meetings of the Colorado Advisory Committee to the Commission will hold public meetings via Zoom. The purpose of the meetings is to continue reviewing drafts of the Committee's report examining campus antisemitism on the Auraria campus in Denver, Colorado. If the Committee determines that it is prepared to do so, it may also vote on the report during one of these meetings.

DATES:

- Wednesday, March 18, 2026; 3:00 p.m. Mountain Time.
- Wednesday, April 1, 2026; 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held via Zoom.

- *Registration Link and Phone Details for 3/18/26 (Audio/Visual): https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_TLZcgxydR5yEPUSS--dJ_w*

  Join by Phone (Audio Only): 1–833 435 1820 USA Toll Free; Webinar ID: 161 262 7062 #.
- *Registration Link and Phone Details for 4/1/26 (Audio/Visual): https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_eKm8oJYnQlyhWbgLCA9uaA.*

  Join by Phone (Audio Only): 1–833 435 1820 USA Toll Free; Webinar ID: 161 783 4164 #.

Agendas

3/18/26: *https://usccr.box.com/s/mnw8tu297207zktrfaqrilxmpz8cdn4z (note: a final meeting agenda will be available prior to the meeting date).*

4/1/26: *https://usccr.box.com/s/bblvakmv2wmhpz25hi3w0ukw8t1igik5 (note: a final meeting agenda will be available prior to the meeting date).*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ana Fortes, Designated Federal Officer at *afortes@usccr.gov,* or 202–681–0857.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These virtual committee meetings are available to the public through the registration links above. Any interested member of the public may join at the links to listen to these meetings. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, public minutes of the meetings will include a list of persons who are present at the meetings. If joining via phone, callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Closed captioning is available by selecting ''CC'' in the Zoom meeting platform. To request additional accommodations, please email *ebohor@usccr.gov* at least 10 business days prior to the meetings.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the meetings. Written comments may be emailed to Evelyn Bohor, *ebohor@usccr.gov.* Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at (202) 809–9618.

Records generated from these meetings may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Coordination Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meetings. Records of the meetings will be available via the file sharing website: *https://usccr.box.com/s/quws58omiopsh2jdwca3bjmz8ahtmpe1* as well as at: *www.facadatabase.gov* under the Commission on Civil Rights, selecting the Advisory Committee of interest. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, *http://www.usccr.gov,* or may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at *ebohor@usccr.gov.*

Dated: March 12, 2026.

David Mussatt,

Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

[FR Doc. 2026–05061 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Oregon Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a business meeting of the Oregon Advisory Committee to the Commission will hold a public business meeting via Zoom. The purpose of the

meeting is to discuss the Committee's project proposal on Religious Freedom in Oregon.

DATES: Friday, March 27, 2026, from 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via Zoom.

Registration Link (Audio/Visual): https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1611400041.

Join by Phone (Audio Only): 1–833 435 1820 USA Toll Free; Webinar ID: 161 140 0041.

Agenda: ''*https://usccr.box.com/s/inmxbs81r902gfyw4v52zr9une3mh3ma (note: a final meeting agenda will be available prior to the meeting date).*''

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kayla Fajota, Designated Federal Officer at *kfajota@usccr.gov,* or (434) 515–2395.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This virtual committee meeting is available to the public through the registration link above. Any interested member of the public may join at the link to listen to this meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, public minutes of the meeting will include a list of persons who are present at the meeting. If joining via phone, callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Closed captioning is available by selecting ''CC'' in the Zoom meeting platform. To request additional accommodations, please email Angelica Trevino, Support Services Specialist at *atrevino@usccr.gov* at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be emailed to Kayla Fajota, Designated Federal Officer at *kfajota@usccr.gov.* Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at (434) 515–2395.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Coordination Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meetings will be available via the file sharing website: *https://usccr.app.box.com/folder/271061562007?s=r6h92j9j27b78vvft9voq7b6kzdphlbl* as well as at: *www.facadatabase.gov* under the Commission on Civil Rights, selecting the Advisory Committee of interest. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, *http://www.usccr.gov,* or may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at the above phone number.

Dated: March 12, 2026.

David Mussatt,

Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

[FR Doc. 2026–05065 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0071]

RIN 0691–XC166

BE–11: Annual Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Annual Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE–11). The data collected on the BE–11 survey are needed to measure the size and economic significance of U.S. direct investment abroad and its impact on the U.S. and foreign economies. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kirsten Brew, Chief, Multinational Operations Branch (BE–49), via phone at (301) 278–9152 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–11 survey form. As noted below, all U.S. persons required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. A completed report covering the U.S. person's fiscal year ending during the previous calendar year is due by May 31. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–11 survey forms and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/dia.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from each U.S. person that has a direct and/or indirect ownership interest exceeding 50 percent of the voting stock in an incorporated foreign business enterprise, or an equivalent interest in an unincorporated foreign business enterprise. The specific BE–11 form type required to be filed is also based on size thresholds which are stated in terms of total assets, sales or gross operating revenues, and net income after income taxes, whether positive or negative. See the BE–11 survey forms for more details.

(b) U.S. persons required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. U.S. persons not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on the operations of U.S. parent companies and their foreign affiliates.

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at: *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey forms and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/dia* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–11 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9418 or by sending an email to *be10/11@bea.gov.*

When To Report: A completed report covering a U.S. person's fiscal year ending during the previous calendar year is due by May 31.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0053. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of

information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. A complete response includes one BE–11A form (with an estimated average reporting burden of 7 hours) for reporting domestic operations and one or more BE–11B (12 hours), or BE–10D (1 hour) forms for reporting foreign operations. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average a total of 95.2 hours per complete response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Kirsten Brew, Chief, Multinational Operations Branch (BE–49), via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0053, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05075 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0079]

RIN 0691–XC174

BE–125: Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property with Foreign Persons (BE–125). The data collected on the BE–125 survey are needed to measure U.S. trade in services and to analyze the impact of U.S. trade on the U.S. and foreign economies. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via phone at (301) 278–9189 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–125 survey form. As noted below, all U.S. persons required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. U.S. persons must submit the completed survey forms within 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, except for the final quarter of the entity's fiscal year when reports must be filed within 45 days. This Notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–125 survey form and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/ssb.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from each U.S. person who had combined reportable sales of services or intellectual property to foreign persons that: exceeded $6 million during the previous fiscal year or are expected to exceed that amount during the current fiscal year; had combined reportable purchases of services or intellectual property from foreign persons that exceeded $4 million during the previous fiscal year; or are expected to exceed that amount during the current fiscal year. Because the thresholds are applied separately to sales and purchases, the reporting requirements may apply only to sales, only to purchases, or to both. See the BE–125 survey form for more details.

(b) U.S. persons required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. U.S. persons not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on U.S. international trade in selected services and intellectual property.

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey forms and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/ssb* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–125 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9303 or by sending an email to *be-125help@bea.gov.*

When To Report: Reports are due to BEA 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, except for the final quarter of the entity's fiscal year when reports must be filed within 45 days.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0067. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 21 hours per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0067, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov*.

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05082 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0078]

RIN 0691–XC173

BE–45: Quarterly Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Quarterly Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies with Foreign Persons (BE–45). The data collected on the BE–45 survey are needed to measure U.S. trade in insurance services and to analyze the impact of U.S. trade on the U.S. and foreign economies. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via phone at (301) 278–9189 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–45 survey form. As noted below, all U.S. persons required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. U.S. persons must submit the completed survey forms within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, except for the final quarter of the calendar year when reports must be filed within 45 days. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–45 survey form and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/ssb.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from U.S. persons whose combined reportable insurance transactions with foreign persons exceeded $8 million (based on absolute value) during the previous calendar year or are expected to exceed that amount during the current calendar year. See the BE–45 survey form for more details.

(b) U.S. persons required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. U.S. persons not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on cross-border insurance transactions between U.S. insurance companies and foreign persons.

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at: *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey forms and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/ssb* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–45 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9303 or by sending an email to *be-45help@bea.gov.*

When To Report: Reports are due to BEA 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, except for the final quarter of the calendar year when reports must be filed within 45 days.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0066. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 9 hours per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0066, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05078 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0072]

RIN 0691–XC167

BE–577: Quarterly Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad—Transactions of U.S. Reporter With Foreign Affiliate

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Quarterly Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad—Transactions of U.S. Reporter with Foreign Affiliate (BE–577). The data collected on the BE–577 survey are needed to measure the size and economic significance of U.S. direct investment abroad and its impact on the U.S. and foreign economies. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amanda Budny, Chief, Direct Transactions and Positions Branch, via phone (301) 278–9154 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–577 survey form. As noted below, all entities required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. Entities must submit the completed survey forms within 30 days after the end of each calendar or fiscal quarter, or within 45 days if the report is for the final quarter of the financial reporting year. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's

final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–577 survey forms and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/dia.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from each U.S. person that has a direct and/or indirect ownership interest of at least 10 percent of the voting stock in an incorporated foreign business enterprise, or an equivalent interest in an unincorporated foreign business enterprise (*i.e.,* foreign affiliate). Specifically, a report is required for: (1) each directly-owned foreign affiliate for which total assets; annual sales or gross operating revenue, excluding sales taxes; or annual net income after provision for foreign income taxes was greater than $500 million (positive or negative) at any time during the affiliate's fiscal reporting year; and (2) each indirectly-owned foreign affiliate that met the $500 million threshold and had an intercompany receivable or payable balance with the U.S. reporter that exceeded $10 million. See the BE–577 survey form for more details.

(b) Entities required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. Entities not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on transactions between parent companies and their affiliates and on direct investment positions (*i.e.,* stocks).

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey form and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/dia* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–577 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9261 or by sending an email to *be577@bea.gov.*

When To Report: Reports are due to BEA 30 days after the close of each calendar or fiscal quarter, or 45 days if the report is for the final quarter of the financial reporting year.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0004. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Amanda Budny, Chief, Direct Transactions and Positions Branch, via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0004, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05074 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0076]

RIN 0691–XC171

BE–30: Quarterly Survey of Ocean Freight Revenues and Foreign Expenses of U.S. Carriers

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Quarterly Survey of Ocean Freight Revenues and Foreign Expenses of U.S. Carriers (BE–30). The data collected on the BE–30 survey are needed to measure U.S. trade in transport services and to analyze the impact of U.S. trade on the U.S. and foreign economies. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via phone at (301) 278–9189 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–30 survey form. As noted below, all U.S. persons required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. U.S. persons must submit the completed survey forms within 30 days after the end of each quarter. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–30 survey form and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/ssb.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from U.S. ocean carriers that had total reportable revenues or total reportable expenses that were $500,000 or more during the previous year or are expected to be $500,000 or more during the current year. See the BE–30 survey form for more details.

(b) U.S. persons required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. U.S. persons not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on U.S. ocean freight carriers' foreign revenues and expenses.

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at: *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey forms and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions,

can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/ssb* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–30 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9303 or by sending an email to *be-30help@bea.gov.*

When To Report: Reports are due to BEA 30 days after the end of each quarter.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0011. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 hours per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch (BE–50), Balance of Payments Division, via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0011, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05077 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0075]

RIN 0691–XC170

BE–29: Annual Survey of Foreign Ocean Carriers' Expenses in the United States

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Annual Survey of Foreign Ocean Carriers' Expenses in the United States (BE–29). The data collected on the BE–29 survey are needed to measure U.S. trade in transport services and to analyze the impact of U.S. trade on the U.S. and foreign economies. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via phone at (301) 278–9189 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–29 survey form. As noted below, all U.S. persons required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. U.S. persons must submit the completed survey forms within 45 days after the end of each calendar year. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–29 survey form and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/ssb.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from U.S. agents of foreign carriers who handled 40 or more foreign ocean carrier port calls in the reporting period or had covered expenses of $250,000 or more in the reporting period for all foreign ocean vessels handled by the U.S. Agent. See the BE–29 survey form for more details.

(b) U.S. persons required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. U.S. persons not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on foreign ocean carriers' expenses in the United States.

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at: *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey forms and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/ssb* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–29 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9303 or by sending an email to *be-29help@bea.gov.*

When To Report: Reports are due to BEA 45 days after the end of each calendar year.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0012. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0012, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05080 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0080]

RIN 0691–XC175

BE–185: Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Foreign Persons

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Foreign Persons (BE–185). The data collected on the BE–185 survey are needed to measure U.S. trade in financial services and to analyze the impact of U.S. trade on the U.S. and foreign economies. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act and by section 5408 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via phone at (301) 278–9189 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–185 survey form. As noted below, all U.S. persons required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. U.S. persons must submit the completed survey forms within 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, except for the final quarter of the entity's fiscal year when reports must be filed within 45 days. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*) and section 5408 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100–418, 15 U.S.C. 4908(b)), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–185 survey form and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/ssb.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from each U.S. person who had combined reportable sales of financial services to foreign persons that exceeded $20 million during the previous fiscal year, or are expected to exceed that amount during the current fiscal year; or had combined reportable purchases of financial services from foreign persons that exceeded $15 million during the previous fiscal year, or are expected to exceed that amount during the current fiscal year. Because the thresholds are applied separately to sales and purchases, the reporting requirements may apply only to sales, only to purchases, or to both. See BE–185 survey form for more details.

(b) U.S. persons required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. U.S. persons not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on transactions in financial services between U.S. financial services providers and foreign persons.

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at: *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey forms and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/ssb* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–185 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9303 or by sending an email to *be-185help@bea.gov.*

When To Report: Reports are due to BEA 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, except for the final quarter of the entity's fiscal year when reports must be filed within 45 days.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0065. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0065, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108 and 15 U.S.C. 4908(b).

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05087 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0073]

RIN 0691–XC168

BE–605: Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States—Transactions of U.S. Affiliate With Foreign Parent

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States—Transactions of U.S. Affiliate with Foreign Parent (BE–605). The data collected on the BE–605 survey are needed to measure the size and economic significance of foreign direct investment in the United States and its impact on the U.S. economy. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amanda Budny, Chief, Direct Transactions and Positions Branch, via phone (301) 278–9154 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–605 survey form. As noted below, all entities required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. Entities must submit the completed survey forms within 30 days after the end of each calendar or fiscal quarter, or within 45 days if the report is for the final quarter of the financial reporting year. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment

and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–605 survey forms and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/fdi.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from each U.S. business enterprise in which a foreign person has a direct and/or indirect ownership interest of at least 10 percent of the voting stock in an incorporated business enterprise, or an equivalent interest in an unincorporated business enterprise (*i.e.,* U.S. affiliate). Specifically, a report is required for: (1) each directly-owned U.S. affiliate for which total assets; annual sales or gross operating revenue, excluding sales taxes; or annual net income after provision for U.S. income taxes was greater than $500 million (positive or negative) at any time during the affiliate's fiscal reporting year; and (2) each indirectly-owned U.S. affiliate that met the $500 million threshold and had an intercompany debt balance. See the BE–605 survey form for more details.

(b) Entities required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. Entities not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on transactions between parent companies and their affiliates and on direct investment positions (*i.e.,* stocks).

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at; *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey form and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/fdi* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–605 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9422 or by sending an email to *be605@bea.gov.*

When To Report: Reports are due to BEA 30 days after the close of each calendar or fiscal quarter, or 45 days if the report is for the final quarter of the financial reporting year.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0009. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Amanda Budny, Chief, Direct Transactions and Positions Branch, via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0009, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05079 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0074]

RIN 0691–XC169

BE–9: Quarterly Survey of Foreign Airline Operators' Revenues and Expenses in the United States

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Quarterly Survey of Foreign Airline Operators' Revenues and Expenses in the United States (BE–9). The data collected on the BE–9 survey are needed to measure U.S. trade in transport services and to analyze the impact of U.S. trade on the U.S. and foreign economies. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via phone at (301) 278–9189 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–9 survey form. As noted below, all U.S. persons required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. U.S. persons must submit the completed survey forms within 30 days after the end of each quarter. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–9 survey form and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/ssb.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from U.S. offices, agents, or other representatives of foreign airline operators that transport passengers or freight and express to or from the United States, whose total covered revenues or total covered expenses were $5 million or more during the previous year, or are expected to meet or exceed that amount during the current year. See the BE–9 survey form for more details.

(b) U.S. persons required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. U.S. persons not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on foreign airline operators' revenues and expenses in the United States, and count of passengers transported to, or from, the United States.

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at: *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey forms and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/ssb* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–9 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9303 or by sending an email to *be-9help@bea.gov.*

When To Report: Reports are due to BEA 30 days after the end of each quarter.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0068. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 6 hours per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0068, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov*.

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05076 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0077]

RIN 0691–XC172

BE–37: Quarterly Survey of U.S. Airline Operators' Foreign Revenues and Expenses

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Quarterly Survey of U.S. Airline Operators' Foreign Revenues and Expenses (BE–37). The data collected on the BE–37 survey are needed to measure U.S. trade in transport services and to analyze the impact of U.S. trade on the U.S. and foreign economies. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via phone at (301) 278–9189 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–37 survey form. As noted below, all U.S. persons required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. U.S. persons must submit the completed survey forms within 30 days after the end of each quarter. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–37 survey form and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/ssb.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from U.S. airline operators engaged in the international transportation of passengers, or of U.S. export freight, or the transportation of freight or passengers between two foreign ports, if total covered revenues or total covered expenses were $500,000 or more in the previous year, or are expected to be $500,000 or more during the current year. See the BE–37 survey form for more details.

(b) U.S. persons required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. U.S. persons not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on U.S. airline operators' foreign revenues and expenses, and count of passengers transported to, or from, the United States.

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey forms and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded from *www.bea.gov/ssb* and submitted through mail or fax. Form BE–37 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9303 or by sending an email to *be-37help@bea.gov.*

When To Report: Reports are due to BEA 30 days after the end of each quarter.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0011. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 hours per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Christopher Stein, Chief, Services Surveys Branch, Balance of Payments Division, via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0011, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05081 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

[Docket No. 260311–0070]

RIN 0691–XC165

BE–15: Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States

AGENCY: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce, is informing the public that it is conducting the mandatory survey titled Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE–15). The data collected on the BE–15 survey are needed to measure the size and economic significance of foreign direct investment in the United States and its impact on the U.S. economy. This survey is authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kirsten Brew, Chief, Multinational Operations Branch (BE–49), via phone at (301) 278–9152 or via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through this notice, BEA publishes the reporting requirements for the BE–15 survey form. As noted below, all entities required to respond to this mandatory survey will be contacted by BEA. A completed report covering the entity's fiscal year ending during the previous calendar year is due by May 31. This notice is being issued in conformance with 15 CFR 801.3. Additional information about BEA's collection of data on international trade in services and direct investment can be found in the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (22 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), as well as BEA's final rule, ''International Services Surveys and Direct Investment Surveys Reporting'' (77 FR 24373; April 24, 2012), establishing guidelines for collecting data on international trade in services and direct investment through public notice rather than separate rulemaking at 15 CFR 801. Survey data on international trade in services and direct investment that are not collected pursuant to the 2012 rule are described separately in 15 CFR 801. The BE–15 survey forms and instructions are available at: *www.bea.gov/fdi.*

Reporting

Notice of specific reporting requirements, including who is to report, the information to be reported, the manner of reporting, and the time and place of filing reports, will be mailed to those required to complete this survey.

Who Must Report: (a) Reports are required from each U.S. business enterprise in which a foreign person has a direct and/or indirect ownership interest of more than 50 percent of the voting stock in an incorporated U.S. business enterprise or an equivalent interest in an unincorporated U.S. business enterprise. The specific BE–15 form type to be filed is also based on size thresholds which are stated in terms of total assets, sales or gross operating revenues, and net income after income taxes, whether positive or negative. See the BE–15 survey forms for more details.

(b) Entities required to report will be contacted individually by BEA. Entities not contacted by BEA have no reporting responsibilities.

What To Report: The survey collects information on the operations of U.S. affiliates of foreign companies.

How To Report: Reports can be filed using BEA's electronic reporting system at *www.bea.gov/efile.* Copies of the survey forms and instructions, which contain complete information on reporting procedures and definitions, can be downloaded for review at: *www.bea.gov/fdi.* Form BE–15 inquiries can be made by phone to BEA at (301) 278–9247 or by sending an email to *be12/15@bea.gov.*

When To Report: A completed report covering an entity's fiscal year ending during the previous calendar year is due by May 31.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

This data collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and assigned control number 0608–0034. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 23.5 hours per response. Additional information regarding this burden estimate may be viewed at: *www.reginfo.gov;* under the Information Collection Review tab, click on ''Search'' and use the above OMB control number to search for the current survey instrument. Send comments regarding this burden estimate to Kirsten Brew, Chief, Multinational Operations Branch (BE–49), via email at *PRAcomments@bea.gov;* and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project 0608–0034, via email at *OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov.*

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108.

Paul W. Farello,

Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–05083 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S–133–2026]

Foreign-Trade Zone 252; Application for Subzone; Fermi, Inc.; Panhandle, Texas

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board by the City of Amarillo, grantee of FTZ 252, requesting subzone status for the facility of Fermi, Inc., located in Panhandle, Texas. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), and the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally docketed on March 11, 2026.

The proposed subzone (988 acres) is located at 688 FM 683, Panhandle, Texas. A notification of proposed production activity has been submitted and will be published separately for public comment. The proposed subzone would be subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 252.

In accordance with the FTZ Board's regulations, Camille Evans of the FTZ Staff is designated examiner to review the application and make recommendations to the Executive Secretary.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the FTZ Board's Executive Secretary and sent to: *ftz@trade.gov.* The closing period for their receipt is April 27, 2026. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted through May 11, 2026.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection in the ''Online FTZ Information Section'' section of the FTZ Board's website, which is accessible via *www.trade.gov/ftz.*

For further information, contact Camille Evans at *Camille.Evans@trade.gov.*

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Elizabeth Whiteman,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05006 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–552–817]

Oil Country Tubular Goods From Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Preliminary Results and Rescission, in Part, of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily finds that producers and/or exporters subject to this administrative review made sales of subject merchandise at less than normal value (NV) during the period of review (POR) September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024. Commerce is also rescinding this review, in part, with respect to two companies. Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results.

DATES: Applicable March 16, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Preston Cox or Theodora Mattei, AD/CVD Operations, Office VI, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; (240) 956–8630 or (202) 482–4834, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 10, 2014, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** the antidumping duty order on oil country tubular goods (OCTG) from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam).[1] On September 3, 2024, Commerce published a notice of opportunity to request an administrative review of the *Order*.[2] On October 17, 2024, Commerce initiated an administrative review of the *Order,* in accordance with section 751(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).[3] On November 19, 2024, Commerce notified interested parties of its intent to rescind the administrative review with respect to Halima Pipe Company (Halima) and Pusan Pipe America, Inc. (PPA).[4]

On December 9, 2024, Commerce tolled certain deadlines in this administrative proceeding by 90 days.[5] On July 23, 2025, in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.213(h)(2), Commerce extended the time period for issuing these preliminary results by 107 days.[6] Due to the lapse in appropriations and Federal Government shutdown, on November 14, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by 47 days.[7] Additionally, due to a backlog of documents that were electronically filed via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS) during the Federal Government shutdown, on November 24, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by an additional 21 days.[8] Between February 13, and March 2, 2026, in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.213(h)(2), Commerce extended the time period for issuing these preliminary results by an additional 13 days.[9] Accordingly, the deadline for these preliminary results is now March 9, 2026.

For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this review, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.[10] A list of topics included in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as an appendix to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via ACCESS. ACCESS is available to registered users at *https://access.trade.gov.* In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at *https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx.*

Scope of the Order

The merchandise covered by the *Order* is OCTG. For a complete description of the scope of the *Order, see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Recission of Administrative Review, in Part

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(d)(3), it is Commerce's practice to rescind an administrative review of an antidumping duty order where it concludes that there were no suspended entries of subject merchandise during the POR.[11] Normally, upon completion of an administrative review, the suspended entries are liquidated at the antidumping duty assessment rate for the review period.[12] Therefore, for an administrative review to be conducted, there must be a reviewable, suspended entry that Commerce can instruct CBP to liquidate at the calculated antidumping duty assessment rate for the review period.[13]

[1] *See Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from India, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, the Republic of Turkey, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Antidumping Duty Orders; and Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value,* 79 FR 53691 (September 10, 2014) (*Order*); *see also Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from India, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, the Republic of Turkey, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Notice of Correction to the Antidumping Duty Orders With Respect to Turkey and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,* 79 FR 59740 (October 3, 2014).

[2] *See Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity to Request Administrative Review and Join Annual Inquiry Service List,* 89 FR 71254 (September 3, 2024).

[3] *See Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews,* 89 FR 77079 (September 20, 2024).

[4] *See* Memorandum, ''Intent to Rescind Administrative Review, In Part,'' dated November 19, 2024 (Intent to Rescind Memorandum).

[5] *See* Memorandum, ''Tolling of Deadlines for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,'' dated December 9, 2024.

[6] *See* Memorandum, ''Extension of Deadline for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review,''dated July 23, 2025.

[7] *See* Memorandum, ''Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government,'' dated November 17, 2025.

[8] *See* Memorandum, ''Tolling of all Case Deadlines,'' dated November 24, 2025.

[9] *See* Memoranda, ''Extension of Deadline for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review,'' dated February 13, 2026, and ''Extension of Deadline for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review,'' dated March 2, 2026.

[10] *See* Memorandum, ''Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Results of the Administrative Review of the Antidumping Duty Order on Oil Country Tubular Goods from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; 2023–2024,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

[11] *See, e.g., Certain Carbon and Alloy Steel Cut-to Length Plate from the Federal Republic of Germany: Recission of Antidumping Administrative Review; 2020–2021,* 88 FR 4154 (January 24, 2023).

[12] *See* 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1).

[13] *See, e.g., Shanghai Sunbeauty Trading Co.* v. *United States,* 380 F.Supp.3d 1328, 1337 (CIT 2019), at 12 (referring to section 751(a) of the Act, the U.S. Court of International Trade held that ''{w}hile the statute does not explicitly require that an entry be suspended as a prerequisite for establishing entitlement to a review, it does explicitly state the determined rate will be used as the liquidation rate for the reviewed entries. This result can only obtain if the liquidation of entries has been suspended''; *see also Certain Frozen Fish Fillets from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and Final Determination of No Shipments; 2018–2019,* 86 FR 36102 (July 8, 2021), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum at Comment 4; and *Solid Fertilizer Grade Ammonium Nitrate from the Russian Federation: Notice of Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review,* 77 FR 65532 (October 29, 2012) (noting that ''for an administrative review to be conducted,

Continued

On November 19, 2025, Commerce notified all interested parties of its intent to rescind the instant review regarding Halima and PPA because there were no reviewable, suspended entries of subject merchandise from these companies during the POR and invited interested parties to comment.[14] We received no comments. Therefore, in the absence of suspended entries of subject merchandise during the POR, we are hereby rescinding this administrative review, in part, with respect to Halima and PPA, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(d)(3).[15]

Vietnam-Wide Entity

Commerce's policy regarding conditional review of the Vietnam-wide entity applies to this administrative review.[16] Under this policy, the Vietnam-wide entity will not be under review unless a party specifically requests, or Commerce self-initiates, a review of the entity. Because no party requested a review of the Vietnam-wide entity, the entity is not under review, and the entity's rate of 111.47 percent is not subject to change.

Methodology

Commerce is conducting this review in accordance with sections 751(a)(1)(B) and (2) of the Act. Export price is calculated in accordance with section 772 of the Act. NV is calculated in accordance with section 773 of the Act. For a full description of the methodology underlying these preliminary results, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Preliminary Results of Review

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margin exists for the period September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024:

Producer/exporter	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
SeAH Steel VINA Corporation ...	12.84

there must be a reviewable, suspended entry to be liquidated at the newly calculated assessment rate'').

[14] *See* Intent to Rescind Memorandum.

[15] *Id.* We are rescinding our review of U.S. importer PPA. However, we continue to review sales made through PPA as part of our review of SeAH VINA.

[16] *See Antidumping Proceedings: Announcement of Change in Department Practice for Respondent Selection in Antidumping Duty Proceedings and Conditional Review of the Nonmarket Economy Entity in NME Antidumping Duty Proceedings,* 78 FR 65963 (November 4, 2013).

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties for these preliminary results within five days of any public announcement, or if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Public Comment

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(1)(ii), we have modified the deadline for interested parties to submit case briefs to Commerce to no later than 21 days after the date of publication of this notice. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed not later than five days after the date for filing case briefs.[17] Interested parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding must submit: (1) table of contents listing each issue; and (2) a table of authorities.[18] All briefs must be filed electronically using ACCESS. An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety in ACCESS by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the established deadline.

As provided under 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2)(iii) and (d)(2)(iii), we request that interested parties provide at the beginning of their briefs a public, executive summary for each issue raised in their briefs.[19] Further, we request that interested parties limit their executive summary of each issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. We intend to use the executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the issues and decision memorandum that will accompany the final determination in this investigation. We request that interested parties include footnotes for relevant citations in the executive summary of each issue. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).[20]

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce intends to hold the hearing at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

Assessment Rates

Upon completion of this administrative review, Commerce shall determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries. If the weighted-average dumping margin for a mandatory respondent is not zero or *de minimis* in the final results of this review, we will calculate an importer-specific assessment rate on the basis of the ratio of the total amount of dumping calculated for each importer's examined sales and the total entered value of such sales in accordance with 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1).[21] If the weighted-average dumping margin is zero or *de minimis* in the final results of review, or if an importer-specific assessment rate is zero or *de minimis,* Commerce will instruct CBP to liquidate appropriate entries without regard to antidumping duties.[22] For entries of subject merchandise during the POR produced by the respondents for which they did not know its merchandise was destined for the United States, we will instruct CBP to liquidate unreviewed entries pursuant to the reseller policy, *i.e.,* the assessment rate for such entries will be the all-others rate established in the investigation if there is no rate for the intermediate company(ies) involved in the transaction.[23]

For the companies rescinded from this review, Halima and PPA, Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 35 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for a

[17] *See* 19 CFR 351.309(d); *see also Administrative Protective Order, Service and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,* 88 FR 67069, 67077 (September 29, 2023) (*APO and Service Procedures*).

[18] *See* 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and 351.309(d)(2).

[19] We use the term ''issue'' here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

[20] *See APO and Service Procedures.*

[21] *See Antidumping Proceedings: Calculation of the Weighted-Average Dumping Margin and Assessment Rate in Certain Antidumping Proceedings: Final Modification,* 77 FR 8101, 8103 (February 14, 2012).

[22] *Id.,* 77 FR at 8102–03; *see also* 19 CFR 351.106(c)(2).

[23] *See Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Assessment of Antidumping Duties,* 68 FR 23954 (May 6, 2003).

statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.,* within 90 days of publication).

For the mandatory respondent, SeAH Vina, Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 35 days after the date of publication of the final results of this review in the **Federal Register**. If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for a statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.,* within 90 days of publication).

The final results of this review shall be the basis for the assessment of antidumping duties on entries of merchandise covered by the final results of this review and for future cash deposits of estimated antidumping duties, where applicable.[24]

Pursuant to a refinement to Commerce's assessment practice, where sales of subject merchandise exported by an individually examined respondent were not reported in the U.S. sales data submitted by the respondent, but the merchandise was entered into the United States during the POR, Commerce will instruct CBP to liquidate any entries of such merchandise at the AD assessment rate for the Vietnam-wide entity.[25]

Cash Deposit Requirements

The following cash deposit requirements will be effective upon publication in the **Federal Register** of the final results of this administrative review for all shipments of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication, as provided by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) for the exporters listed above, the cash deposit rate will be equal to the weighted-average dumping margin established in the final results of this review, except if the rate is *de minimis,* in which case the cash deposit rate will be zero; (2) for previously-examined Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese exporters not listed above that at the time of entry are eligible for a separate rate based on a prior completed segment of this proceeding, the cash deposit rate will continue to the be the existing exporter-specific cash deposit rate; (3) for all non-Vietnamese exporters of subject merchandise which at the time of entry do not have a separate rate, the cash deposit rate will be the rate applicable to the Vietnamese exporter that supplied the non-Vietnamese exporter; and (4) for all Vietnamese exporters of subject merchandise that have not been found to be entitled to a separate rate at the time of entry, the cash deposit rate will be that for the Vietnam-wide entity (*i.e.,* 111.47 percent). These cash deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Notification to Importers

This notice serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in Commerce's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

Notification to Interested Parties

These preliminary results of review are issued and published in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4).

Dated: March 9, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Scope of the *Order*
V. Discussion of the Methodology
VI. Currency Conversion
VII. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2026–04995 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–137]

Pentafluoroethane (R–125) From the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that Zhejiang Sanmei Ind. Co., Ltd (Sanmei), an exporter of pentafluoroethane (R–125) from the People's Republic of China, sold subject merchandise to the United States at prices below normal value during the period of review (POR) March 1, 2023, through February 29, 2024. Additionally, Commerce continues to determine that Zhejiang Yonghe Refrigerant Co., Ltd (Yonghe) is not eligible for a separate rate and therefore is part of the China-wide entity.

DATES: Applicable March 16, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Maciuba, AD/CVD Operations, Office II, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: 202–482–0413.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On July 11, 2025, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** the *Preliminary Results* of the 2023–2024 administrative review [1] of the antidumping duty order on R–125 from China and invited interested parties to comment.[2]

Due to the lapse in appropriations and Federal Government shutdown, on November 14, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by 47 days.[3] Additionally, due to a backlog of documents that were electronically filed via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS) during the Federal Government shutdown, on November 24, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by an additional 21 days.[4] The deadline for the final results is now January 16, 2026.

For a complete description of the events that occurred since the *Preliminary Results, see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.[5] The Issues and Decision Memorandum is a public document and on file electronically via

[24] *See* section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act.

[25] For a full discussion of this practice, *see* Non-Market Economy *Antidumping Proceedings: Assessment of Antidumping Duties,* 76 FR 65694 (October 24, 2011).

[1] *See Pentafluoroethane (R–125) from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Results and Rescission, in Part, of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024,* 90 FR 30866 (July 11, 2025), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

[2] *Id.* 90 FR at 30868.

[3] *See* Memorandum, ''Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government,'' dated November 14, 2025.

[4] *See* Memorandum, ''Tolling of all Case Deadlines,'' dated November 24, 2025.

[5] *See* Memorandum, ''Issues and Decision Memorandum for Final Results of the Antidumping Duty Administrative Review of Pentafluoroethane from the People's Republic of China; 2023–2024,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Issues and Decision Memorandum).

ACCESS. ACCESS is available to registered users at *https://access.trade.gov.* In addition, a complete version of the Issues and Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at *https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx.*

Scope of the Order

The products subject to the *Order* is R–125 from China.[6] A full description of the scope of the *Order* is provided in the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in briefs filed by parties in this administrative review are addressed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum and are listed in the appendix to this notice.

Separate Rate

No parties commented on Commerce's preliminary decision to grant a separate rate to the Sanmei Companies,[7] nor on Commerce's preliminary decision not to grant a separate rate for Yonghe.[8] We have made no changes to Commerce's preliminary separate rate determination for these final results.

China-Wide Entity

As noted above, we continue to find that Yonghe is ineligible for a separate rate. Therefore, for the final results, we continue to find that Yonghe is part of the China-wide entity.

Under Commerce's policy regarding the conditional review of the China-wide entity,[9] the China-wide entity will not be under review unless a party specifically requests, or Commerce self-initiates, a review of the entity. Because no party requested a review of the China-wide entity in this review, the entity is not under review, and the entity's rate (*i.e.,* 267.51 percent) is not subject to change.[10]

[6] *See Pentafluoroethane (R–125) from the People's Republic of China: Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders,* 87 FR 12081 (March 3, 2022) (*Order*).

[7] The Sanmei Companies are comprised of Zhejiang Sanmei; Jiangsu Sanmei Chemical Ind. Co., Ltd.; and Fujian Qingliu Dongying Chemical Ind. Co., Ltd. *See Pentafluoroethane (R–125) from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2021–2023,* 89 FR 66033 (August 14, 2024).

[8] *See Preliminary Results* at ''Separate Rates'' section.

[9] *See Antidumping Proceedings: Announcement of Change in Department Practice for Respondent Selection in Antidumping Duty Proceedings and Conditional Review of the Nonmarket Economy Entity in NME Antidumping Duty Proceedings,* 78 FR 65963 (November 4, 2013).

[10] *See Order,* 87 FR at 12082.

Changes Since the Preliminary Results

Based on our review of the record and comments received from interested parties regarding our *Preliminary Results,* and for the reasons explained in the Issues and Decision Memorandum, we made certain changes to the margin calculation for Sanmei.[11]

Final Results of Review

Commerce determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margin exists for the period March 1, 2023, through February 29, 2024:

Exporter	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
Zhejiang Sanmei Chemical Ind. Co., Ltd.; Fujian Qingliu Dongying Chemical Co., Ltd.; Jiangsu Sanmei Chemical Ind. Co., Ltd	48.67

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose the calculations performed in connection with these final results of review to interested parties within five days after public announcement of the final results or, if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of the notice of final results in the **Federal Register**, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Assessment Rates

Pursuant to section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.212(b), Commerce has determined, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries of subject merchandise covered by this review.

For Sanmei, Commerce will calculate importer-specific assessment rates for antidumping duties, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1).

Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 35 days after the date of publication of the final results of this review in the **Federal Register**. If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for a statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.,* within 90 days of publication).

Cash Deposit Requirements

The following cash deposit requirements will be effective upon publication of the final results of this administrative review for all shipments of subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date, as provided for by section 751a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) for the Sanmei Companies, the cash deposit rate will be equal to the dumping margin established in the final results of this review; (2) for previously examined Chinese and non-Chinese exporters not listed above that maintain separate rates based on a prior completed segment of this proceeding, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the existing exporter-specific cash deposit rate; (3) for all Chinese exporters of subject merchandise that have not been found to be entitled to a separate rate, the cash deposit rate will be the rate for the China-wide entity (*i.e.,* 267.51 percent); and (4) for all non-Chinese exporters of subject merchandise which have not received their own rate, the cash deposit rate will be the rate applicable to the Chinese exporter that supplied that non-Chinese exporter. These deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

[11] *See* Issues and Decision Memorandum at part IV.

Notification to Importers

This notice serves as a final reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in Commerce's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

Administrative Protective Order

This notice serves as the only reminder to parties subject to an administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3), which continues to govern business proprietary information in this segment of the proceeding. Timely written notification of return or destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these final results of administrative review in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(5) and 19 CFR 351.213(h)(2).

Dated March 9, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix

List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Scope of the *Order*
IV. Changes since the *Preliminary Results*
V. Discussion of the Issues
Comment 1: Whether to Apply Adverse Facts Available to Sanmei
Comment 2: Sanmei's Factors of Production Reporting
Comment 3: Whether to Grant a By-Product Offset to Sanmei
Comment 4: Sanmei's Market Economy Perchloroethylene Purchases
VI. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2026–05002 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–570–199]

Temporary Steel Fencing From the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duy Determination and Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of temporary steel fencing from the People's Republic of China (China). The period of investigation (POI) is January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

DATES: Applicable March 16, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Natasia Byrd AD/CVD Operations, Office VI, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–1240.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 20, 2025, Commerce published the *Preliminary Determination* in the **Federal Register** and invited interested parties to comment.[1] On February 9, 2026, Commerce issued its Post-Preliminary Analysis.[2]

Due to the lapse in appropriations and Federal Government shutdown, on November 14, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by 47 days.[3] Additionally, due to a backlog of documents that were electronically filed via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Access System (ACCESS) during the Federal Government shutdown, on November 24, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by an additional 21 days.[4] Accordingly, the deadline for this final determination is now March 10, 2026.

For a complete description of the events that followed the *Preliminary Determination, see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.[5] The Issues and Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via ACCESS. ACCESS is available to registered users at *https://access.trade.gov.* In addition, a complete version of the Issues and Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at *https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx.*

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is temporary steel fencing from China. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, *see* Appendix I.

Scope Comments

In accordance with the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations,[6] the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.,* scope).[7] For a summary of the product coverage comments and rebuttal responses submitted to the record and accompanying discussion and analysis of all comments timely received, *see* the Preliminary Scope Memorandum released with the preliminary determination of the companion LTFV investigation, wherein Commerce modified the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice.*[8]

As we did not receive comments from interested parties on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the Preliminary Scope Memorandum, the scope in this final determination, as provided in Appendix I, is unchanged from the Preliminary Scope Memorandum.[9]

Verification

As provided in section 782(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), in September 2025, Commerce conducted a verification of the information reported by Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd. (Hebei Minmetals) and Shijiazhuang SD Company Ltd. (Shijiazhuang SD). As explained in the Post-Preliminary Analysis and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum, Commerce was not able to verify the information provided by Shijiazhuang SD and its largest subject merchandise supplier/producer Huanghua Shengrundong Hardware Products Co., Ltd. due to the extent and nature of errors and omissions in Shijiazhuang SD's reporting.[10]

Commerce was able to complete its verification of Hebei Minmetals and its largest subject merchandise supplier/producer Hebei Wuxin Garden Products Co., Ltd. (Wuxin Garden). Commerce used standard verification procedures, including an examination of relevant documents provided at verification, in conducting its verification of the company respondents.[11]

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[1] *See Temporary Steel Fencing from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances Determination, in Part, and Alignment of Final Determination with Final Antidumping Determination,* 90 FR 26268 (June 20, 2025) (*Preliminary Determination*), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum (PDM).

[2] *See* Memorandum, ''Post-Preliminary Analysis Memorandum for the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Temporary Steel Fencing from the People's Republic of China,'' dated February 9, 2026 (Post-Preliminary Analysis).

[3] *See* Memorandum, ''Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government,'' dated November 14, 2025.

[4] *See* Memorandum, ''Tolling of all Case Deadlines,'' dated November 24, 2025.

[5] *See* Memorandum, ''Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Final Affirmative Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Temporary Steel Fencing from the People's Republic of China,'' dated concurrently with, and herby adopted by, this notice (Issues and Decision Memorandum).

[6] *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule,* 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*).

[7] *See Temporary Steel Fencing from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation,* 90 FR 9311, 9311–12 (February 11, 2025) (*Initiation Notice*).

[8] *See* Memorandum, ''Placing Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum on the Record,'' dated concurrently with this notice, at Attachment (containing Memorandum, ''Less-Than-Fair Value and Countervailing Duty Investigations on Temporary Steel Fencing from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum,'' dated August 13, 2025 (Preliminary Scope Memorandum)); *see also* Appendix 1 for the scope, as revised from the *Initiation Notice.*

[9] *See* Preliminary Scope Memorandum.

[10] *See* Post-Preliminary Analysis at 6–7.

[11] *See* Memoranda, ''Verification of the Questionnaire Responses Submitted by Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd. and Hebei Wuxin Garden Products Co., Ltd.;'' *see also* ''Verification of Questionnaire Responses Submitted by Shijiazhuang SD Company Ltd.,'' and ''Verification

Continued

Analysis of Subsidy Programs and Comments Received

The subsidy programs under investigation and the issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs that were submitted by interested parties in this investigation, are discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum. For a list of the issues raised by interested parties and addressed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum, *see* Appendix II to this notice.

Changes Since the Preliminary Determination and Post-Preliminary Analysis

We have calculated a final countervailable subsidy rate for Shijiazhuang SD based entirely on facts available with adverse inferences due to extensive issues discovered at verification. In addition, based on our analysis of comments from interested parties and review of the information received at verification, we revised the net countervailable subsidy rate for Hebei Minmetals. Lastly, we have also revised the rate applicable to the non-responsive companies in this investigation [12] and the rate applicable to all other producers and exporters of subject merchandise in this investigation. For a discussion of these changes, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

Methodology

Commerce conducted this investigation in accordance with section 701 of the Act. For each of the subsidy programs found to be countervailable, Commerce determines that there is a subsidy, *i.e.,* a financial contribution by an ''authority'' that gives rise to a benefit to the recipient, and that the subsidy is specific.[13] For a complete description of the methodology underlying all of Commerce's conclusions, including our reliance on facts otherwise available, including application of adverse facts available (AFA), pursuant to sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances

Commerce preliminarily determined, in accordance with section 703(e)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206(c)(1), that critical circumstances existed with respect to imports of subject merchandise produced and/or exported by Hebei Minmetals; the non-responsive companies (based on application of AFA); and all other producers and exporters of temporary steel fencing from China.[14] Additionally, Commerce preliminarily determined that critical circumstances did not exist with respect to imports of subject merchandise for Shijiazhuang SD.[15]

For the final determination, pursuant to section 705(a)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206, we are now finding that critical circumstances exist for Shijiazhuang SD and for the non-responsive companies, based on facts otherwise available, including with an adverse inference, pursuant to sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act. However, we find that critical circumstances did not exist with respect Hebei Minmetals and all other producers and exporters that enter subject merchandise under the all-others countervailable subsidy rate, based on an updated massive imports analysis over a 12-month period and additional data submitted by Hebei Minmetals.[16] For a full description of the methodology and results of Commerce's critical circumstances analysis, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

All-Others Rate

Pursuant to section 705(c)(5)(A)(i) of the Act, Commerce will determine an all-others rate equal to the weighted-average countervailable subsidy rates established for exporters and/or producers individually examined, excluding any rates that are zero, *de minimis,* or based entirely under section 776 of the Act. In accordance with section 705(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Act, we calculated an individual estimated countervailable subsidy rate for the mandatory respondent, Hebei Minmetals. However, we calculated individual total net countervailable subsidy rates based entirely on facts otherwise available with an adverse inference for mandatory respondent Shijiazhuang SD. Therefore, the only rate that is not zero, *de minimis,* or based entirely on facts otherwise available is the rate calculated for Hebei Minmetals. Accordingly, we are assigning the rate calculated for Hebei Minmetals to all other producers and exporters, pursuant to section 705(c)(5)(A)(i) of the Act.

Final Determination

Commerce determines that the following estimated net countervailable subsidy rates exist for the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024:

Company	Subsidy rate (percent *(ad valorem)*
Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	49.19
Shijiazhuang SD Company Ltd	* 178.97
Anping County Xingpeng Hardware Co., Ltd	* 178.97
Shenzhou Yuelei Metal Products Co., Ltd	* 178.97
Sichuan Gold-Link Industry ..	* 178.97
Sourcing Solution Co., Ltd ...	* 178.97
Tianjin Mengsheng Metal Products	* 178.97
All Others	49.19

* Rate based on facts available with adverse facts inferences.

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose to interested parties the calculations performed in connection with this final determination within five days of its public announcement or, if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Continuation of Suspension of Liquidation

As a result of our *Preliminary Determination,* and pursuant to sections 703(d)(1)(B) and (d)(2) of the Act, Commerce instructed U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to collect cash deposits and suspend liquidation of entries of subject merchandise as described in the scope of the investigation section entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after June 20, 2025, the date of publication of the *Preliminary Determination* in the **Federal Register**. In accordance with section 703(d) of the Act, we instructed CBP to discontinue the suspension of liquidation of all entries of subject merchandise entered or withdrawn from warehouse, on or after October 18, 2025, the first day provisional measures were no longer in effect, but to continue the suspension of liquidation of all entries of subject merchandise on or before October 17, 2026.

of Questionnaire Responses Submitted by Shengrundong Hardware Products Co., Ltd.,'' collectively dated January 6, 2026.

[12] Commerce did not receive responses to its quantity and value questionnaire from (1) Anping County Xingpeng Hardware Co., Ltd.; (2) Shenzhou Yuelei Metal Products Co., Ltd.; (3) Sichuan Gold-Link Industry; (4) Sourcing Solution Co., Ltd.; and (5) Tianjin Mengsheng Metal Products (collectively, the non-responsive companies). *See Preliminary Determination* PDM at 12–13.

[13] *See* sections 771(5)(B) and (D) of the Act regarding financial contribution; section 771(5)(E) of the Act regarding benefit; and section 771(5A) of the Act regarding specificity.

[14] *See Preliminary Determination* PDM at 5–8.

[15] *Id.*

[16] *See* Hebei Minmetals's Letter, ''Response to Request for Monthly Quantity and Value Data,'' dated July 28, 2025, at Attachment 1.

Moreover, as a result of our preliminary critical circumstances determination, pursuant to section 703(e)(2) of the Act, we instructed CBP to suspend liquidation of all entries of subject merchandise from Hebei Minmetals and all other producers and exporters, which were entered or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption by these companies on or after March 22, 2025, 90 days prior to the date of the publication of the *Preliminary Determination* in the **Federal Register**. However, as noted above, we find critical circumstances do not exist for Hebei Minmetals and all other producers and exporters of temporary steel fencing from China for this final determination. Accordingly, we will direct CBP to terminate the retroactive suspension of liquidation ordered at the *Preliminary Determination* and release any cash deposits that were required prior to June 20, 2025, the date of publication of the *Preliminary Determination* in the **Federal Register**, consistent with section 705(c)(3) of the Act.

As a result of our preliminary critical circumstances determination, we found that critical circumstances did not exist for Shijiazhuang SD. However, as noted above, Commerce is finding that critical circumstances exist for Shijiazhuang SD for this final determination. Accordingly, pursuant to section 703(e)(2)(A) of the Act, Commerce will instruct CBP to suspend liquidation of all appropriate entries from Shijiazhuang SD, which were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after 90 days prior to the date of publication of the *Preliminary Determination* in the **Federal Register**.

If the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) issues a final affirmative injury determination, we will issue a CVD order, reinstate the suspension of liquidation under section 706(a) of the Act, and require a cash deposit of estimated countervailing duties for such entries of subject merchandise in the amounts indicated above. Pursuant to section 705(c)(2) of the Act, if the ITC determines that material injury, or threat of material injury, does not exist, this proceeding will be terminated, and all estimated duties deposited or securities posted as a result of the suspension of liquidation will be refunded or cancelled.

ITC Notification

In accordance with section 705(d) of the Act, Commerce will notify the ITC of its final affirmative determination that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of temporary steel fencing from China. As Commerce's final determination is affirmative, in accordance with section 705(b) of the Act, the ITC will determine, within 45 days, whether the domestic industry in the United States is materially injured, or threatened with material injury, by reason of imports of temporary steel fencing from China. In addition, we are making available to the ITC all non-privileged and non-proprietary information in our files, provided the ITC confirms that it will not disclose such information, either publicly or under administrative protective order (APO), without the written consent of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

If the ITC determines that material injury or threat of material injury does not exist, this proceeding will be terminated and all cash deposits will be refunded. If the ITC determines that such injury does exist, Commerce will issue a CVD order directing CBP to assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, countervailing duties on all imports of the subject merchandise that are entered, or withdrawn, for consumption on or after the effective date of the suspension of liquidation, as discussed above in the ''Continuation of Suspension of Liquidation'' section.

Administrative Protective Order

This notice will serve as the only reminder to parties subject to an APO of their responsibility concerning the destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Timely written notification of the return/destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation which is subject to sanction.

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 705(d) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.210(c).

Dated: March 10, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise subject to this investigation is temporary steel fencing. Temporary steel fencing consists of temporary steel fence panels and temporary steel fence stands. Temporary steel fence panels, when assembled with temporary steel fence stands or other types of stands outside of the scope, with each other, or with posts, create a free-standing fence. Temporary steel fence panels are covered by the scope regardless of whether they attach to a stand or the type of stand to which they connect.

Temporary steel fence panels have a welded frame of steel tubing and an interior consisting of chain link, steel wire mesh, or other steel materials that are not more than ten millimeters in actual diameter or width. The steel tubing may surround all edges of the temporary steel fence panel or only be attached along two parallel sides of the panel. All temporary steel fence panels with at least two framed sides are covered by the scope, regardless of the number of edges framed with steel tubing.

Temporary steel fence panels are typically between 10 and 12 feet long and six to eight feet high, though all temporary steel fence panels are covered by the scope regardless of dimension or weight as long as a single panel meets each of the three following criteria: (1) it has over seven and a half square feet in actual surface area; (2) it weighs more than four pounds; and (3) it weighs less than 1.92 pounds per square foot. Temporary steel fence panels may be square, rectangular, or have rounded edges, and may or may not have gates, doors, wheels, or barbed wire or other features, though all temporary steel fence panels are covered by the scope regardless of shape and other features. Temporary steel fence panels may have one or more horizontal, vertical, or diagonal reinforcement tubes made of steel welded to the inside frame, though all temporary steel fence panels are covered by the scope regardless of the existence, number, or type of reinforcement tubes attached to the panel. Temporary steel fence panels may have extensions, pins, tubes, or holes at the bottom of the panel, but all temporary steel fence panels are covered regardless of the existence of such features.

Steel fence stands are shapes made of steel that stand flat on the ground and have one or two open tubes or solid pins into which temporary steel fence panels are inserted to stand erect. The steel fence stand may be made of welded steel tubing or may be a flat steel plate with one or two tubes or pins welded onto the plate for connecting the panels.

Temporary steel fencing is covered by the scope regardless of coating, painting, or other finish. Both temporary steel fence panels and temporary steel fence stands are covered by the scope, whether imported assembled or unassembled, and whether imported together or separately.

Subject merchandise includes material matching the above description that has been finished, assembled, or packaged in a third country, including by coating, painting, assembling, attaching to, or packaging with another product, or any other finishing, assembly, or packaging operation that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the temporary steel fencing.

Temporary steel fencing is included in the scope of this investigation whether or not

imported attached to, or in conjunction with, other parts and accessories such as posts, hooks, rings, brackets, couplers, clips, connectors, handles, brackets, or latches. If temporary steel fencing is imported attached to, or in conjunction with, such non-subject merchandise, only the temporary steel fencing is included in the scope.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation are decorative steel fence panels. Decorative steel fence panels are steel fence panels that have all of the following characteristics: (i) the panel's long ends are no more than 48 inches; (ii) the panel's short ends are no more than 38 inches; (iii) the panel weighs 7 pounds or less; (iv) the panel is framed on all sides with steel tubing no wider than 10 mm; and (v) the panel's the interior contains a decorative pattern (meaning a pattern other than square, rectangular, diamond, or hexagonal meshing) accounting for at least 5 percent of the area within the frame.

Merchandise covered by this investigation is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under the subheading 7308.90.9590. Subject merchandise may also enter under subheadings 7326.90.8688 and 7323.99.9080 of the HTSUS. The HTSUS subheadings set forth above are provided for convenience and U.S. Customs purposes only. The written description of the scope is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Changes Since the *Preliminary Determination* and Post-Preliminary Analysis
IV. Critical Circumstances Determination
V. Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Application of Adverse Inferences
VI. Subsidies Valuation
VII. Analysis of Programs
VIII. Discussion of the Issues
Comment 1: Whether Commerce Should Continue to Apply AFA to Find that Certain Input Suppliers and Service Providers are Government Authorities
Comment 2: Whether the Provision of Ocean Shipping Services are Specific and Entrusted or Directed by the GOC
Comment 3: Whether Commerce Should Apply AFA to Find the Provision of Electricity for Less Than Adequate Remuneration (LTAR) Program is Specific
Comment 4: Whether Commerce Lawfully Countervailed ''Other Subsidies''
Comment 5: Whether Commerce Should Modify the Steel Input for LTAR Program Benchmarks
Comment 6: Whether Commerce Misapplied the AFA Hierarchy in the Selection of AFA Rates
Comment 7: Whether Commerce Should Include Programs Discovered during Verification in the Total AFA Rate for Shijiazhuang SD
Comment 8: Whether Commerce Should Find that Critical Circumstances Exist for Hebei Minmetals
Comment 9: Whether Wuxin Garden Received Benefits from Certain Tax Programs During the POI
Comment 10: Whether Commerce Should Continue to Find that the Corporate Income Tax Law (CITL) Article 26: Deduction as an Exemption of Dividend Income from Taxation is Countervailable
Comment 11: Whether Commerce Should Continue to Find that the CITL 32: Deduction for Accelerated Depreciation of Fixed Assets is Countervailable
IX. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2026–05005 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–939]

Tow-Behind Lawn Groomers and Certain Parts Thereof From the People's Republic of China: Continuation of Antidumping Duty Order

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: As a result of the determinations by the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) that revocation of the antidumping duty (AD) order on tow-behind lawn groomers and certain parts thereof (lawn groomers) from the People's Republic of China (China) would likely lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping and material injury to an industry in the United States, Commerce is publishing a notice of continuation of this AD order.

DATES: Applicable March 10, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David De Falco, Trade Agreements Policy and Negotiations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–2178.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 3, 2009, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** the AD order on lawn groomers from China.[1] On July 1, 2025, the ITC instituted,[2] and Commerce initiated,[3] the third sunset review of the *Order,* pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). As a result of its review, Commerce determined that revocation of the *Order* would likely lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping, and therefore, notified the ITC of the magnitude of the margins of dumping likely to prevail should the *Order* be revoked.[4]

On March 10, 2026, the ITC published its determination, pursuant to sections 751(c) and 752(a) of the Act, that revocation of the *Order* would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.[5]

Scope of the Order

The scope of this *Order* covers certain non-motorized tow behind lawn groomers, manufactured from any material, and certain parts thereof. Lawn groomers are defined as lawn sweepers, aerators, dethatchers, and spreaders. Unless specifically excluded, lawn groomers that are designed to perform at least one of the functions listed above are included in the scope of this *Order,* even if the lawn groomer is designed to perform additional non-subject functions (*e.g.,* mowing).

All lawn groomers are designed to incorporate a hitch, of any configuration, which allows the product to be towed behind a vehicle. Lawn groomers that are designed to incorporate both a hitch and a push handle, of any type, are also covered by the scope of this *Order.* The hitch and handle may be permanently attached or removable, and they may be attached on opposite sides or on the same side of the lawn groomer. Lawn groomers designed to incorporate a hitch, but where the hitch is not attached to the lawn groomer, are also included in the scope of the *Order.*

Lawn sweepers consist of a frame, as well as a series of brushes attached to an axle or shaft which allows the brushing component to rotate. Lawn sweepers also include a container (which is a receptacle into which debris swept from the lawn or turf is

[1] *See Certain Tow Behind Lawn Groomers and Certain Parts Thereof from the People's Republic of China: Antidumping Duty Order,* 74 FR 38395 (August 3, 2009) (*Order*).

[2] *See Certain Tow-Behind Lawn Groomers and Parts Thereof From China; Institution of a Five-Year Review,* 90 FR 28780 (July 1, 2025).

[3] *See Initiation of Five-Year (Sunset) Reviews,* 90 FR 28722 (July 1, 2025).

[4] *See Tow-Behind Lawn Groomers and Certain Parts Thereof from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of the Expedited Third Sunset Review of the Antidumping Duty Order,* 91 FR 675 (January 8, 2026).

[5] *See Certain Tow-Behind Lawn Groomers and Parts Thereof from China; Determination,* 91 FR 11562 (March 10, 2026) (*ITC Final Determination*).

deposited) supported by the frame. Aerators consist of a frame, as well as an aerating component that is attached to an axle or shaft which allows the aerating component to rotate. The aerating component is made up of a set of knives fixed to a plate (known as a ''plug aerator''), a series of discs with protruding spikes (a ''spike aerator''), or any other configuration, that are designed to create holes or cavities in a lawn or turf surface. Dethatchers consist of a frame, as well as a series of tines designed to remove material (*e.g.,* dead grass or leaves) or other debris from the lawn or turf. The dethatcher tines are attached to and suspended from the frame. Lawn spreaders consist of a frame, as well as a hopper (*i.e.,* a container of any size, shape, or material) that holds a media to be spread on the lawn or turf. The media can be distributed by means of a rotating spreader plate that broadcasts the media (''broadcast spreader''), a rotating agitator that allows the media to be released at a consistent rate (''drop spreader''), or any other configuration.

Lawn dethatchers with a net fully-assembled weight (*i.e.,* without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 100 pounds or less are covered by the scope of the *Order.* Other lawn groomers—sweepers, aerators, and spreaders—with a net fully-assembled weight (*i.e.,* without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 200 pounds or less are covered by the scope of the *Order.*

Also included in the scope of the *Order* are modular units, consisting of a chassis that is designed to incorporate a hitch, where the hitch may or may not be included, which allows modules that perform sweeping, aerating, dethatching, or spreading operations to be interchanged. Modular units—when imported with one or more lawn grooming modules—with a fully assembled net weight (*i.e.,* without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 200 pounds or less when including a single module, are included in the scope of the *Order.* Modular unit chasses, imported without a lawn grooming module and with a fully assembled net weight (*i.e.,* without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 125 pounds or less, are also covered by the scope of the *Order.* When imported separately, modules that are designed to perform subject lawn grooming functions (*i.e.,* sweeping, aerating, dethatching, or spreading), with a fully assembled net weight (*i.e.,* without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 75 pounds or less, and that are imported with or without a hitch, are also covered by the scope.

Lawn groomers, assembled or unassembled, are covered by this *Order.* For purposes of this *Order,* ''unassembled lawn groomers'' consist of either (1) all parts necessary to make a fully assembled lawn groomer, or (2) any combination of parts, constituting a less than complete, unassembled lawn groomer, with a minimum of two of the following ''major components'':

(1) an assembled or unassembled brush housing designed to be used in a lawn sweeper, where a brush housing is defined as a component housing the brush assembly, and consisting of a wrapper which covers the brush assembly and two end plates attached to the wrapper;

(2) a sweeper brush;

(3) an aerator or dethatcher weight tray, or similar component designed to allow weights of any sort to be added to the unit;

(4) a spreader hopper;

(5) a rotating spreader plate or agitator, or other component designed for distributing media in a lawn spreader;

(6) dethatcher tines;

(7) aerator spikes, plugs, or other aerating component; or

(8) a hitch, defined as a complete hitch assembly comprising of at least the following two major hitch components, tubing and a hitch plate regardless of the absence of minor components such as pin or fasteners. Individual hitch component parts, such as tubing, hitch plates, pins or fasteners are not covered by the scope.

The major components or parts of lawn groomers that are individually covered by this *Order* under the term ''certain parts thereof'' are: (1) brush housings, where the wrapper and end plates incorporating the brush assembly may be individual pieces or a single piece; and (2) weight trays, or similar components designed to allow weights of any sort to be added to a dethatcher or an aerator unit.

The scope of this *Order* specifically excludes the following: (1) agricultural implements designed to work (*e.g.,* churn, burrow, till, etc.) soil, such as cultivators, harrows, and plows; (2) lawn or farm carts and wagons that do not groom lawns; (3) grooming products incorporating a motor or an engine for the purpose of operating and/or propelling the lawn groomer; (4) lawn groomers that are designed to be hand held or are designed to be attached directly to the frame of a vehicle, rather than towed; (5) ''push'' lawn grooming products that incorporate a push handle rather than a hitch, and which are designed solely to be manually operated; (6) dethatchers with a net assembled weight (*i.e.,* without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of more than 100 pounds, or lawn groomers—sweepers, aerators, and spreaders—with a net fully-assembled weight (*i.e.,* without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of more than 200 pounds; and (7) lawn rollers designed to flatten grass and turf, including lawn rollers which incorporate an aerator component (*e.g.,* ''drum-style'' spike aerators).

The lawn groomers that are the subject of this *Order* are currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) statistical reporting numbers 8432.41.0000, 8432.42.0000, 8432.80.0000, 8432.80.0010, 8432.90.0060, 8432.90.0081, 8479.89.9496,[6] 8479.90.9496, and 9603.50.0000. These HTSUS provisions are given for reference and customs purposes only, and the description of merchandise is dispositive for determining the scope of the product included in this *Order.*

Continuation of the Order

As a result of the determinations by Commerce and the ITC that revocation of the *Order* would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping and material injury to an industry in the United States, pursuant to section 751(d)(2) of the Act, Commerce hereby orders the continuation of the *Order.* U.S. Customs and Border Protection will continue to collect AD cash deposits at the rates in effect at the time of entry for all imports of subject merchandise.

The effective date of the continuation of the *Order* will be March 10, 2026.[7] Pursuant to section 751(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218(c)(2), Commerce intends to initiate the next five-year reviews of the *Order* not later than 30 days prior to fifth anniversary of the date of the last determination by the ITC.

[6] Effective January 27, 2022, HTSUS code 8479.89.9496 was replaced by 8479.89.9596.

[7] *See ITC Final Determination.*

Administrative Protective Order (APO)

This notice also serves as a final reminder to parties subject to an APO of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3), which continues to govern business proprietary information in this segment of the proceeding. Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials, or conversion to judicial protective order, is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation which is subject to sanction.

Notification to Interested Parties

This five-year (sunset) review and this notice are in accordance with sections 751(c) and 751(d)(2) of the Act and published in accordance with section 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.218(f)(4).

Dated: March 10, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2026–05000 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–207, C–570–208]

Polypropylene Corrugated Boxes From the People's Republic of China: Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Orders

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: Based on affirmative final determinations by the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), Commerce is issuing antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) orders on polypropylene corrugated boxes (corrugated boxes) from the People's Republic of China (China).

DATES: Applicable March 16, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Alexander (AD) or Rachel Accorsi (CVD), AD/CVD Operations, Offices II and VIII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–4313 or (202) 482–3149, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In accordance with sections 705(d), 735(d), and 777(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), on January 22, 2026, Commerce published its affirmative final determinations of sales at less than fair value (LTFV) of corrugated boxes from China,[1] and its affirmative final determination that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of corrugated boxes from China.[2]

On March 9, 2026, pursuant to sections 705(d) and 735(d) of the Act, the ITC notified Commerce of its final affirmative determination that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of LTFV imports of corrugated boxes from China, and subsidized imports of corrugated boxes from China, within the meaning of sections 705(b)(1)(A)(i) and 735(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act.[3]

Scope of the Orders

The merchandise covered by these orders are corrugated boxes from China. For a complete description of the scope of the orders, *see* the Appendix to this notice.

AD Order

On March 9, 2026, in accordance with section 735(d) of the Act, the ITC notified Commerce of its final determination that an industry in the United States is materially injured within the meaning of section 735(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act by reason of imports of corrugated boxes from China that are sold in the United States at LTFV.[4] Therefore, in accordance with sections 735(c)(2) and 736 of the Act, Commerce is issuing this AD order. Moreover, because the ITC determined that imports of corrugated boxes from China are materially injuring a U.S. industry, unliquidated entries of such merchandise from China entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption are subject to the assessment of antidumping duties.

Therefore, in accordance with section 736(a)(1) of the Act, Commerce will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, antidumping duties equal to the amount by which the normal value of the merchandise exceeds the export price (or constructed export price) of the merchandise on all relevant entries of corrugated boxes from China. Antidumping duties will be assessed on unliquidated entries of corrugated boxes entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after August 28, 2025, the date of publication of the *LTFV Preliminary Determination,*[5] but will not include entries occurring after the expiration of the provisional measures period and before publication of the ITC's final injury determination under section 705(b) of the Act, as further described in the ''Provisional Measures—AD'' section of this notice.

Suspension of Liquidation and Cash Deposits—AD

Except as noted in the ''Provisional Measures—AD'' section of this notice, in accordance with section 736 of the Act, Commerce intends to instruct CBP to reinstitute the suspension of liquidation on all relevant entries of corrugated boxes from China. These instructions suspending liquidation will remain in effect until further notice.

Commerce also intends to instruct CBP to require cash deposits equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margins indicated in the table below, adjusted by the relevant subsidy offsets. Accordingly, effective on the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of the notice of the ITC's final affirmative injury determination, CBP will require, at the same time as importers would normally deposit estimated customs duties on subject merchandise, a cash deposit equal to the rates listed in the table below. The rate for the China-wide entity applies to all producers and exporters not specifically listed, as appropriate. These instructions suspending liquidation and cash deposit requirements will remain in effect until further notice.

Estimated Weighted-Average Dumping Margins

The estimated weighted-average dumping margins are as follows:

[1] *See Polypropylene Corrugated Boxes from the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value,* 91 FR 2739 (January 22, 2026) (*LTFV Final Determination*).

[2] *See Polypropylene Corrugated Boxes from the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination,* 91 FR 2734 (January 22, 2026) (*Final CVD Determination*).

[3] *See* ITC's Letter, ''Notification of ITC Final Determinations,'' dated March 9, 2026 (ITC Notification Letter).

[4] *Id.*

[5] *See Polypropylene Corrugated Boxes From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value,* 90 FR 41988 (August 28, 2025) (*LTFV Preliminary Determination*).

Exporter/producer	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)	Cash deposit rate (adjusted for subsidy offsets) (percent)
China-Wide Entity	* 83.64	82.21

* Rate based on facts available with adverse inferences.

Provisional Measures—AD

Section 733(d) of the Act states that suspension of liquidation pursuant to an affirmative preliminary determination may not remain in effect for more than four months, except where exporters representing a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise request that Commerce extend the four-month period to no more than six months. In the underlying investigation, Commerce published the *LTFV Preliminary Determination* on August 28, 2025. Therefore, the four-month period beginning on the date of publication ended on December 25, 2025. Therefore, in accordance with section 733(d) of the Act, we instructed CBP to terminate the suspension of liquidation and to liquidate, without regard to antidumping duties, unliquidated entries of corrugated boxes from China made on or after December 26, 2025, the date on which the provisional measures expired, until and through the day preceding the date of publication and prior to the date of publication of the ITC's final determinations in the **Federal Register**. Suspension of liquidation and the collection of cash deposits will resume on the date of publication of the ITC's final determination in the **Federal Register**.

CVD Order

As stated above, on March 9, 2026, the ITC notified Commerce of its final determination that an industry is materially injured within the meaning of section 705(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act by reason of subsidized imports of corrugated boxes from China.[6] Therefore, in accordance with section 705(c)(2) of the Act, Commerce is issuing this CVD order. Moreover, because the ITC determined that imports of corrugated boxes from China are materially injuring a U.S. industry, unliquidated entries of such merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, are subject to the assessment of countervailing duties.

Therefore, in accordance with section 706(a) of the Act, Commerce will direct CBP to assess, upon further instructions by Commerce, countervailing duties on unliquidated entries of corrugated boxes from China entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on or after August 20, 2025, the date of publication of the *CVD Preliminary Determination,*[7] but will not include entries occurring after the expiration of the provisional measures period and before the publication of the ITC's final injury determination under section 705(b) of the Act, as further described in the ''Provisional Measures—CVD'' section of this notice, below.

Suspension of Liquidation and Cash Deposits—CVD

In accordance with section 706 of the Act, Commerce intends to instruct CBP to reinstitute the suspension of liquidation on all relevant entries of corrugated boxes from China, effective on the date of publication of the ITC's final affirmative determinations in the **Federal Register**, and to assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, pursuant to section 706(a)(1) of the Act, countervailing duties on each entry of subject merchandise in an amount based on the net countervailable subsidy rates for the subject merchandise. These instructions suspending liquidation will remain in effect until further notice.

Commerce also intends, pursuant to section 706(a)(1) of the Act, to instruct CBP to require cash deposits equal to the amounts as indicated below. Accordingly, effective on the date of the publication of the ITC's final affirmative injury determination in the **Federal Register**, CBP will require, at the same time as importers would normally deposit estimated customs duties on the subject merchandise, a cash deposit for each entry of subject merchandise equal to the subsidy rates listed below.[8] The all-others rate applies to all producers or exporters not specifically listed below, as appropriate.

Estimated Countervailable Subsidy Rates

The estimated countervailable subsidy rates are as follows:

Company	Subsidy rate (percent *ad valorem*)
Dongguan Jian Xin Plastic Products	* 62.27
Jinan Mantis Co Ltd	* 62.27
Ningbo Luchen Packaging Technology Co., Ltd	* 62.27
Shandong PPKG I&E Co. Ltd	* 62.27
Suzhou Huiyuan Plastic Products Co	* 62.27
All Others	62.27

* Rate based on facts available with adverse inferences.

Provisional Measures—CVD

Section 703(d) of the Act states that the suspension of liquidation pursuant to an affirmative preliminary determination may not remain in effect for more than four months. Commerce published the *CVD Preliminary Determination* on August 20, 2025.[9] As such, the four-month period beginning on the date of the publication of the *Preliminary Determinations* ended on December 17, 2025.

[6] *See* ITC Notification Letter.

[7] *See Polypropylene Corrugated Boxes from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination, and Alignment of Final Determination With Final Antidumping Duty Determination,* 90 FR 40564 (August 20, 2025) (*CVD Preliminary Determination*).

[8] *See* section 706(a)(3) of the Act.

[9] *See CVD Preliminary Determination.*

Therefore, in accordance with section 703(d) of the Act, we instructed CBP to terminate the suspension of liquidation and to liquidate, without regard to CVDs, unliquidated entries of corrugated boxes from China entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on or after December 18, 2025, the date on which the provisional measures expired, until and through the day preceding the date of publication and prior to the date of publication of the ITC's final determination in the **Federal Register**. Suspension of liquidation and the collection of cash deposits will resume on the date of publication of the ITC's final determination in the **Federal Register**.

Establishment of Annual Inquiry Service Lists

On September 20, 2021, Commerce published the *Final Rule* in the **Federal Register**.[10] On September 27, 2021, Commerce also published the *Procedural Guidance* in the **Federal Register**.[11] The *Final Rule* and *Procedural Guidance* provide that Commerce will maintain an annual inquiry service list for each order or suspended investigation, and any interested party submitting a scope ruling application or request for circumvention inquiry shall serve a copy of the application or request on the persons on the annual inquiry service list for that order, as well as any companion order covering the same merchandise from the same country of origin.[12]

In accordance with the *Procedural Guidance,* for orders published in the **Federal Register** after November 4, 2021, Commerce will create an annual inquiry service list segment in Commerce's online e-filing and document management system, Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Electronic Service System (ACCESS), available at *https://access.trade.gov,* within five business days of publication of the notice of the order. Each annual inquiry service list will be saved in ACCESS, under each case number, and under a specific segment type called ''AISL-Annual Inquiry Service List.'' [13]

Interested parties who wish to be added to the annual inquiry service list for an order must submit an entry of appearance to the annual inquiry service list segment for the order in ACCESS within 30 days after the date of publication of the order. For ease of administration, Commerce requests that law firms with more than one attorney representing interested parties in an order designate a lead attorney to be included on the annual inquiry service list. Commerce will finalize the annual inquiry service list within five business days thereafter. As mentioned in the *Procedural Guidance,*[14] the new annual inquiry service list will be in place until the following year, when the *Opportunity Notice* for the anniversary month of the order is published.

Commerce may update an annual inquiry service list at any time as needed based on interested parties' amendments to their entries of appearance to remove or otherwise modify their list of members and representatives, or to update contact information. Any changes or announcements pertaining to these procedures will be posted to the ACCESS website at *https://access.trade.gov.*

Special Instructions for the Petitioner and Foreign Governments

In the *Final Rule,* Commerce stated that, ''after an initial request and placement on the annual inquiry service list, both petitioners and foreign governments will automatically be placed on the annual inquiry service list in the years that follow.'' [15] Accordingly, as stated above, the petitioner and the Government of China (GOC) should submit their initial entries of appearance after publication of this notice in order to appear in the first annual inquiry service lists for these orders. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.225(n)(3), the petitioner and the GOC will not need to resubmit their entries of appearance each year to continue to be included on the annual inquiry service list. However, the petitioner and the GOC are responsible for making amendments to their entries of appearance during the annual update to the annual inquiry service list in accordance with the procedures described above.

Notification to Interested Parties

This notice constitutes the AD and CVD orders with respect to corrugated boxes from China, pursuant to section 706(a) and 736(a) of the Act. Interested parties can find a list of AD and CVD orders currently in effect at *https://www.trade.gov/data-visualization/adcvd-orders-and-suspension-agreements.*

These AD and CVD orders are issued and published in accordance with sections 706(a) and 736(a) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.211(b).

Dated: March 10, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Orders

The merchandise covered by the orders is polypropylene corrugated boxes. Polypropylene corrugated boxes are boxes, bins, totes, or other load-bearing containers made for holding goods, that are made of corrugated polypropylene sheets, also known as polypropylene hollow core sheets, polypropylene fluted sheets, polypropylene twin wall sheets, or multi wall sheets. Such polypropylene sheets are ''corrugated,'' ''fluted,'' or ''hollow core,'' meaning the inside of the sheet contains channels or pockets of air which make the sheets lightweight, while retaining strength and durability. Polypropylene corrugated boxes are typically produced from a plastic resin consisting of 50 percent or more polypropylene. Polypropylene corrugated boxes are covered by the scope irrespective of the particular mix of polypropylene homo-polymer, polypropylene co-polymer, recycled or virgin polypropylene, or ancillary chemicals such as electrostatic agents or flame retardants. Polypropylene corrugated boxes are formed by corrugated polypropylene sheets cut to length, die-cut into specific box shapes, and may be cut or scored to allow each side of the box to be folded into shape. Polypropylene corrugated boxes may include a tab or attached portion of polypropylene corrugated sheet (commonly referred to as a ''manufacturer's joint'') that has been cut, slotted, or scored to facilitate the formation of the box by stapling, gluing, welding, or taping the sides together to form a tight seal. One-piece polypropylene corrugated boxes are die-cut or otherwise formed so that the top, bottom, and sides form a single, contiguous unit. Two-piece polypropylene corrugated boxes are those with a folded bottom and a folded top as separate pieces. Multi-piece polypropylene corrugated boxes are those with separate bottoms and tops that are fitted to a single folded piece comprising the sides of the box. Polypropylene corrugated boxes may be printed with ink or digital designs.

[10] *See Regulations to Improve Administration and Enforcement of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Laws,* 86 FR 52300 (September 20, 2021) (*Final Rule*).

[11] *See Scope Ruling Application; Annual Inquiry Service List; and Informational Sessions,* 86 FR 53205 (September 27, 2021) (*Procedural Guidance*).

[12] *Id.*

[13] This segment will be combined with the ACCESS Segment Specific Information (SSI) field which will display the month in which the notice of the order or suspended investigation was published in the **Federal Register**, also known as the anniversary month. For example, for an order under case number A–000–000 that was published in the **Federal Register** in January, the relevant segment and SSI combination will appear in ACCESS as ''AISL–January Anniversary.'' Note that there will be only one annual inquiry service list segment per case number, and the anniversary month will be pre-populated in ACCESS.

[14] *See Procedural Guidance,* 86 FR at 53206.

[15] *See Final Rule,* 86 FR at 52335.

The subject merchandise includes polypropylene corrugated boxes with or without handles, with or without lids or tops, with or without reinforcing wire, whether in a one-piece, two-piece, or multi-piece configuration, and whether folded into shape or in an unfolded form. The subject merchandise includes all polypropylene corrugated boxes regardless of size, shape, or dimension. The subject merchandise also includes polypropylene corrugated box lids or tops when imported separately from polypropylene corrugated boxes.

The products subject to the orders are currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of Merchandise covered by the orders is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff System of the United States (HTSUS) under statistical reporting number 3923.10.9000. Although the HTSUS statistical reporting number is provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise is dispositive.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–580–870]

Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods From the Republic of Korea: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily finds that certain oil country tubular goods (OCTG) from the Republic of Korea (Korea) were not sold in the United States at prices below normal value. The period of review (POR) is September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024. Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results.

DATES: Applicable March 16, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Hedberg, AD/CVD Operations, Office VI, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–0955.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

These preliminary results are made in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this administrative review on October 17, 2024.[1] On December 9, 2024, Commerce tolled certain deadlines in this administrative proceeding by 90 days.[2]

On August 8, 2025, in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act, Commerce extended the preliminary results of review until December 9, 2025.[3] Due to the lapse in appropriations and Federal Government shutdown, on November 14, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by 47 days.[4] Additionally, due to a backlog of documents that were electronically filed via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS) during the Federal Government shutdown, on November 24, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by an additional 21 days.[5] On February 10 and March 2, 2026, we extended the preliminary results of this review by an additional 13 days and seven days, respectively.[6] Accordingly, the current deadline for the preliminary results of this review is March 9, 2026.

For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this administrative review, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.[7] A list of topics included in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as an appendix to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via ACCESS. ACCESS is available to registered users at *https://access.trade.gov.* In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at *https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx.*

Scope of the Order[8]

The product covered by the *Order* is OCTG from Korea. For a complete description of the scope of the *Order, see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Methodology

Commerce is conducting this administrative review in accordance with section 751(a)(2) of the Act. Commerce has calculated export prices and constructed export prices in accordance with sections 772(a) and (b) of the Act. Normal value is calculated in accordance with section 773 of the Act. For a full description of the methodology underlying our conclusions, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Rate for Non-Selected Companies

The Act and Commerce's regulations do not address the rate to be applied to companies not selected for individual examination when Commerce limits its examination in an administrative review pursuant to section 777A(c)(2) of the Act. Generally, Commerce looks to section 735(c)(5) of the Act, which provides instructions for calculating the all-others rate in a less-than-fair-value (LTFV) investigation, for guidance when calculating the weighted-average dumping margin for companies which were not selected for individual examination in an administrative review. Under section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act, the all-others rate is normally an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated weighted average dumping margins established for exporters and producers individually investigated, excluding any zero or *de minimis* margins, and any margins determined entirely on the basis of facts available. Where the rates for the individually examined companies are zero, *de minimis,* or determined based entirely on facts available, section 735(c)(5)(B) of the Act provides that Commerce may use ''any reasonable method to establish the estimated all-others rate for exporters and producers not individually investigated . . .''

In this administrative review, Commerce preliminarily calculated weighted-average dumping margins of for each of the mandatory respondents, NEXTEEL and SeAH, of zero percent.

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[1] *See Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews,* 89 FR 83644 (October 17, 2024).

[2] *See* Memorandum, ''Tolling of Deadlines for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,'' dated December 9, 2024.

[3] *See* Memorandum, ''Extension of Deadline for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review,'' dated August 8, 2025.

[4] *See* Memorandum, ''Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government,'' dated November 14, 2025.

[5] *See* Memorandum, ''Tolling of all Case Deadlines,'' dated November 25, 2025.

[6] *See* Memorandum, ''Extension of Deadline for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review,'' dated February 10, 2026.

[7] *See* Memorandum, ''Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Results of the Administrative Review of the Antidumping Duty Order on Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from the Republic of Korea; 2023–2024,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

[8] *See Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from India, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, the Republic of Turkey, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Antidumping Duty Orders; and Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value,* 79 FR 53691 (September 10, 2014) (*Order*).

Accordingly, we have preliminarily determined, as a reasonable method, to continue to assign the estimated weighted-average dumping margins currently in effect to the non-selected companies subject to review or if rate is *de minimis* the last above *de minimis* rate applied to the non-selected companies. For a full discussion of the rates for non-selected companies, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Preliminary Results of Review

Commerce preliminarily determines the following weighted-average dumping margins exist for the period September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024:

Exporter/producer	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
NEXTEEL Co., Ltd	0.00
SeAH Steel Corporation	0.00
Review-Specific Rate for Non-Examined Companies:	
AJU Besteel Co., Ltd	1.18
Dong-A Steel Co., Ltd	1.18
HiSteel Co., Ltd	0.77
Husteel Co., Ltd	1.18
Hyundai Steel Pipe Co., Ltd.[9]	1.18
ILJIN Steel Corporation	1.18
K Steel Corporation	1.18
Keonwoo Metals Co., Ltd	1.18
Kukje Steel Co., Ltd	1.18
Kumkang Kind Co., Ltd	11.70
MSTEEL Co., Ltd	1.18
Nissei Trading Co., Ltd	1.18
POSCO International Corporation	1.18
Sung Won Steel Co., Ltd	1.18
TGS Pipe Co. Ltd	1.18

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed for these preliminary results to interested parties within five days after public announcement, or if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.[10]

Public Comment

Because Commerce intends to solicit additional information from interested parties, Commerce will notify interested parties of the deadline for submission of case briefs at a later date.[11] Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed not later than five days after the date for filing case briefs.[12] Interested parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding must submit: (1) a table of contents listing each issue; and (2) a table of authorities.[13]

As provided under 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2)(iii) and (d)(2)(iii), we request that interested parties provide at the beginning of their briefs a public, executive summary for each issue raised in their briefs.[14] Further, we request that interested parties limit their executive summary of each issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. We intend to use the public executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the issues and decision memorandum that will accompany the final results in this administrative review. We request that interested parties include footnotes for relevant citations in the executive summary of each issue. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).[15]

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, filed electronically via ACCESS by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain (1) the party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants, and whether any participant is a foreign national; and (3) a list of the issues to be discussed. Issues raised in the hearing will be limited to those raised in the respective case briefs. If a request for a hearing is made, parties will be notified of the time and date for the hearing.[16]

All submissions, including case and rebuttal briefs, as well as hearing requests, should be filed via ACCESS.[17] An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety via ACCESS by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the established deadline. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).[18]

Assessment Rates

Pursuant to section 751(a)(2)(A) of the Act, upon completion of the final results of this administrative review, Commerce shall determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate

[9] Commerce previously determined that Hyundai Steel Pipe Co., Ltd. is the successor-in-interest to Hyundai Steel Company and should receive the cash deposit rate previously assigned to Hyundai Steel Company. *See Circular Welded Non-Alloy Steel Pipe from the Republic of Korea; Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods From the Republic of Korea; Welded Line Pipe from the Republic of Korea; and Large Diameter Welded Pipe from the Republic of Korea: Notice of Final Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Reviews,* 89 FR 89962 (November 14, 2024). Accordingly, we have not included Hyundai Steel Company in the rate chart above.

[10] *See* 19 CFR 351.224(b).

[11] Commerce is exercising its discretion under 19 CFR 351.309(c)(1)(ii) to alter the time limit for the filing of case briefs.

[12] *See* 19 CFR 351.309(d); *see also Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,* 88 FR 67069, 67077 (September 29, 2023) (*APO and Service Final Rule*).

[13] *See* 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

[14] We use the term ''issue'' here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

[15] *See APO and Service Final Rule.*

[16] *See* 19 CFR 351.310(d).

[17] *See* 19 CFR 351.303.

[18] *See APO and Service Final Rule,* 88 FR at 67069.

entries covered by this review.[19] For any individually examined respondents whose weighted-average dumping margin is above *de minimis* (*i.e.,* greater than or equal to 0.5 percent) in the final results of this review, we will calculate importer-specific *ad valorem* duty assessment rates based on the ratio of the total amount of antidumping duties calculated for the examined sales to the total entered value of the examined sales to that importer, and we will instruct CBP to assess antidumping duties on all appropriate entries covered by this review. For entries of subject merchandise during the POR produced by each respondent for which it did not know its merchandise was destined for the United States, we will instruct CBP to liquidate such entries at the all-others rate if there is no rate for the intermediate company(ies) involved in the transaction.[20] Where the individually selected respondent's weighted-average dumping margin is zero or *de minimis,* or an importer-specific assessment rate is zero or *de minimis,* we will instruct CBP to liquidate the appropriate entries without regard to antidumping duties.

For the companies which were not selected for individual review, we intend to assign an assessment rate based on the methodology described in the ''Rates for Non-Examined Companies'' section. The final results of this review shall be the basis for the assessment of antidumping duties on entries of merchandise covered by this review where applicable.

Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 35 days after the date of publication of the final results of this review in the **Federal Register**.[21] If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for a statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.,* within 90 days of publication).

Cash Deposit Requirements

The following cash deposit requirements will be effective for all shipments of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date of the final results of this administrative review, as provided by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) the cash deposit rate for the companies listed above will be that established in the final results of this review, except if the rate is less than 0.50 percent and, therefore, *de minimis* within the meaning of 19 CFR 351.106(c)(1), in which case the cash deposit rate will be zero; (2) for previously investigated or reviewed companies not covered in this review, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the company-specific cash deposit rate published for the most recently completed segment of this proceeding in which the company participated; (3) if the exporter is not a firm covered in this review, or the LTFV investigation, but the manufacturer is, then the cash deposit rate will be the rate established for the most recent segment for the manufacturer of the merchandise; and (4) the cash deposit rate for all other manufacturers or exporters will continue to be 5.24 percent, the all-others rate established in the LTFV investigation.[22] These cash deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Final Results of the Review

Unless otherwise extended, Commerce intends to issue the final results of this administrative review, including the results of its analysis of the issues raised in any written briefs, no later than 120 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, pursuant to section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.213(h)(1).

Notification to Importers

This notice serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this POR. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in Commerce's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

Notification to Interested Parties

Commerce is issuing and publishing this notice in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.213(h)(2) and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4).

Dated: March 9, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Scope of the *Order*
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[FR Doc. 2026–05001 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–198]

Temporary Steel Fencing From the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that temporary steel fencing from the People's Republic of China (China) is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation (POI) is July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

DATES: Applicable March 16, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis McClure or Noah Wetzel, AD/CVD Operations, Office VIII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–5973, or (202) 482–7466, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 19, 2025, Commerce published the *Preliminary Determination* in the **Federal Register** and invited interested parties to comment.[1] On August 20, 2025,

[19] *See* 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1).

[20] For a full discussion of this clarification, *see Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Assessment of Antidumping Duties,* 68 FR 23954 (May 6, 2003).

[21] *See Notice of Discontinuation of Policy to Issue Liquidation Instructions After 15 Days in Applicable Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Proceedings,* 86 FR 884 (January 15, 2021).

[22] *See Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from the Republic of Korea: Notice of Court Decision Not in Harmony with Final Determination,* 81 FR 59603 (August 30, 2016).

[1] *See Temporary Steel Fencing from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value,*

Continued

Commerce received timely ministerial error allegations from separate rate applicants Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd. (Hebei Minmetals), Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited (Joint Force), Metaltec Group Co., Limited (Metaltec), and Shijiazhuang Shuangming Trade Co., Ltd. (Shuangming).[2] On September 2, 2025, Commerce published a *Preliminary Determination Correction* in the **Federal Register**.[3]

Due to the lapse in appropriations and Federal Government shutdown, on November 14, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by 47 days.[4] Additionally, due to a backlog of documents that were electronically filed via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Access System (ACCESS) during the Federal Government shutdown, on November 24, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by an additional 21 days.[5] Accordingly, the deadline for this final determination is now March 10, 2026.

For a complete description of the events that followed the *Preliminary Determination, see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.[6] The Issues and Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via ACCESS. ACCESS is available to registered users at *http://access.trade.gov.* In addition, a complete version of the Issues and Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at *https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx.*

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are temporary steel fencing products from China. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, *see* Appendix I.

Scope Comments

In the Preliminary Scope Memorandum, we set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.,* scope) in scope-specific case briefs or other written comments on scope issues.[7] We did not receive comments from interested parties on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Preliminary Determination* and made no changes to the scope of the investigation for this final determination. *See* Appendix I.

Analysis of Comments Received

The issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs by the parties in this investigation are discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum. For a list of the issues raised by interested parties and addressed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum, *see* Appendix II.

Changes Since the Preliminary Determination

Based on a review of the record and comments received from interested parties for this final determination, we made certain changes to the estimated weighted-average dumping margins for: Shenzhou Yongao Metal Products Co., Ltd./Shenzhou Yuelei Metal Products Co., Ltd. (collectively, Yongao/Yuelei),[8] Shijiazhuang Sd Company Ltd. (SD), and the China-wide entity. For a discussion of these changes, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

China-Wide Entity and Use of Adverse Facts Available

Consistent with the *Preliminary Determination,*[9] Commerce continues to find, pursuant to sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act, that the use of facts otherwise available, with adverse inferences (AFA), is warranted in determining the dumping rate for the China-wide entity. For this final determination, there is no new information on the record that would cause us to reconsider our preliminary decision. For this final determination, we find that Yongao/Yuelei and SD are not eligible for a separate rate and therefore a part of the China-wide entity. As AFA, we assigned the rate of 184.27 percent to the China-wide entity.[10] For a full description of the methodology underlying Commerce's final determination, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part

Commerce preliminarily determined, in accordance with section 733(e)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206(c)(1), that critical circumstances existed with respect to imports of temporary steel fencing produced and/or exported by Yongao/Yuelei and the China-wide entity, but that critical circumstances did not exist with respect to SD and all other producers and/or exporters granted a separate rate not individually examined.[11]

For the final determination, pursuant to section 735(a)(3)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206, we are continuing to find that critical circumstances exist for the China-wide entity, which now includes SD and Yongao/Yuelei, and do not exist for all other producers and/or exporters granted a separate rate. In finding that critical circumstances exist for the China-wide entity, we relied on facts otherwise available, including with adverse inferences, pursuant to sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act. For a full description of the methodology and results of Commerce's critical circumstances analysis, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

Separate Rates

In the *Preliminary Determination,* we preliminarily granted a separate rate to both mandatory respondents and 13 companies that we did not select for individual examination and denied a separate rate for three companies.[12] We continue to find 13 companies not selected for individual examination eligible for a separate rate [13] and three non-selected companies that submitted

Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part, Postponement of Final Determination and Extension of Provisional Measures, 90 FR 40332 (August 19, 2025) (*Preliminary Determination*), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum (PDM).

[2] *See* Hebei Minmetals et.al's, ''Ministerial Error Comments,'' dated August 20, 2025.

[3] *See Temporary Steel Fencing from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part, Postponement of Final Determination and Extension of Provisional Measures; Correction,* 90 FR 42385 (September 2, 2025) (*Preliminary Determination Correction*).

[4] *See* Memorandum, ''Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government,'' dated November 14, 2025.

[5] *See* Memorandum, ''Tolling of all Case Deadlines,'' dated November 24, 2025.

[6] *See* Memorandum, ''Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Final Affirmative Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Temporary Steel Fencing from the People's Republic of China,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Issues and Decision Memorandum).

[7] *See* Memorandum, ''Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum,'' dated August 13, 2025 (Preliminary Scope Memorandum).

[8] Commerce has determined that the mandatory respondent Yongao is affiliated with Yuelei and has treated these companies as a single entity. *See* Memorandum, ''Preliminary Results of Affiliation and Single Entity Determination,'' dated August 13, 2025. No parties commented on this determination; thus, we continue to treat these companies as a single entity for purposes of this final determination.

[9] *See Preliminary Determination* PDM at 6–12, 22.

[10] *See* Memorandum, ''Calculation of Adverse Facts Available Rate and Rate Assigned to Companies Eligible for a Separate Rate,'' dated concurrently with this notice.

[11] *Id.* at 30–33.

[12] *See Preliminary Determination* PDM at 16–21.

[13] The companies eligible for a separate rate are: (1) Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd.; (2) Tianjin Linkwel International Trading Co., Ltd.; (3) Shantou Jiayu Trading Co., Ltd.; (4) Shijiazhuang Shuangming Trade Co., Ltd.; (5) Metaltec Group Co.; (6) Limited, Hebei Yelang Imp. & Exp. Trade Co., Ltd.; (7) Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited; (8) Hebei Jinshi Industrial Metal Co., Ltd.; (9) Hebei Haiao Wire Mesh Products Co., Ltd.; (10) Anping Chengxin Metal Mesh Co., Ltd.; (11) Hebei Houtuo Co., Ltd.; (12) Hebei Neweast Yilong Trading Co., Ltd.; and (13) Hebei Giant Metal Technology Co., Ltd.

a separate rate application not eligible for a separate rate. However, because we were unable to verify information submitted by the two mandatory respondents, Yongao/Yuelei and SD, regarding their eligibility for a separate rate, we find this information unreliable. Therefore, we determined that Yongao/Yuelei and SD are also not eligible for a separate rate. We have assigned a separate rate of 129.70 percent to the non-examine companies that demonstrated eligibility for separate-rate status.[14]

Combination Rates

Consistent with the *Preliminary Determination,* and Policy Bulletin 05.1,[15] Commerce assigned exporter/producer combination rates for the non-selected companies that are eligible for a separate rate in this final determination.

Final Determination

Commerce determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margins exist for the period July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024:

Exporter	Producer	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)	Cash deposit rate (adjusted for subsidy offsets) (percent)
Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	Huanghua Wangang Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	Huanghua Taiyue Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	Hebei Wuxin Garden Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	Huanghua Qingxin Metal Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	Huanghua Xingyu Hardware Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	Huanghua Deyue Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	Cangzhou Hualing Metal Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	Huanghua Huanyu Hardware Factory	129.70	129.68
Tianjin Linkwel International Trading Co., Ltd	Tianjin Lianhao Metal Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Tianjin Linkwel International Trading Co., Ltd	Changzhou Lianrui Metal Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Shantou Jiayu Trading Co., Ltd	Huanghua Juntai Hardware Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Shijiazhuang Shuangming Trade Co., Ltd	Huanghua Wangang Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Shijiazhuang Shuangming Trade Co., Ltd	Huanghua Taiyue Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Shijiazhuang Shuangming Trade Co., Ltd	Hebei Wuxin Garden Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Shijiazhuang Shuangming Trade Co., Ltd	Huanghua Qingxin Metal Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Shijiazhuang Shuangming Trade Co., Ltd	Huanghua Xingyu Hardware Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Metaltec Group Co., Limited	Shijiazhuang Shuangming Trade Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Metaltec Group Co., Limited	Huanghua Wangang Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Metaltec Group Co., Limited	Huanghua Taiyue Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Metaltec Group Co., Limited	Hebei Wuxin Garden Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Metaltec Group Co., Limited	Huanghua Qingxin Metal Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Metaltec Group Co., Limited	Huanghua Xingyu Hardware Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Yelang Imp. & Exp. Trade Co., Ltd	Huanghua Pengxiang Hardware Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited	Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited	Huanghua Wangang Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited	Huanghua Taiyue Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited	Hebei Wuxin Garden Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited	Huanghua Qingxin Metal Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited	Huanghua Xingyu Hardware Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited	Huanghua Deyue Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Joint Force Int'l Co., Limited	Huanghua Huanyu Hardware Factory	129.70	129.68
Hebei Jinshi Industrial Metal Co., Ltd	Tangshan ZhongRui Industrial Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Jinshi Industrial Metal Co., Ltd	Huanghua Tianhang Hardware Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Jinshi Industrial Metal Co., Ltd	Hebei Tinlin Metal Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Jinshi Industrial Metal Co., Ltd	Huanghua Xindarui Hardware Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Haiao Wire Mesh Products Co., Ltd	Raoyang Shengshi Metal Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Anping Chengxin Metal Mesh Co., Ltd	Anping Chengxin Metal Mesh Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Houtuo Co., Ltd	Huanghua Aiyuan Hardware Products Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Neweast Yilong Trading Co., Ltd	Huanghua City Deyue Hardware Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
Hebei Giant Metal Technology Co., Ltd	Hebei Giant Metal Technology Co., Ltd	129.70	129.68
China-Wide Entity		* 184.27	184.25

* Rate based on facts available with adverse inferences.

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose the calculations performed in connection with this final determination within five days of any public announcement or, if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 735(c)(1)(B) of the Act, we will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to continue to suspend liquidation of all appropriate entries of subject merchandise, as described in Appendix I of this notice, which were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after August 19, 2025, the date of the *Preliminary*

[14] *See* Issues and Decision Memorandum for a discussion of the rate assigned to the non-individually examined respondents receiving a separate rate.

[15] *See* Enforcement and Compliance's Policy Bulletin No. 05.1, regarding, ''Separate-Rates Practice and Application of Combination Rates in Antidumping Investigations involving Non-Market Economy Countries,'' (April 5, 2005) (Policy Bulletin 05.1), available at *https://access.trade.gov/Resources/policy/bull05-1.pdf.*

Determination in the **Federal Register**. Because Commerce found that critical circumstances exist with respect to the China-wide entity, pursuant to section 735(c)(4)(B) of the Act, suspension of liquidation will continue with respect to all applicable entries of subject merchandise from the China-wide entity, as described in Appendix I of this notice, which were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after May 21, 2025, which is 90 days before the date of publication of the *Preliminary Determination* in the **Federal Register**. Further, because we find that SD now is part of the China-wide entity, we will instruct CBP to modify the suspension of liquidation ordered for SD at the *Preliminary Determination* to apply to unliquidated entries of subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after May 21, 2025, which is 90 days before the date on which suspension of liquidation was first ordered, consistent with section 735(c)(4)(B) of the Act.

In accordance with section 733(d) of the Act, we instructed CBP to discontinue the suspension of liquidation of all entries of subject merchandise entered or withdrawn from warehouse, on or after February 15, 2026, the first day provisional measures were no longer in effect, but to continue the suspension of liquidation of all entries of subject merchandise on or before February 14, 2026.

If the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) issues a final affirmative injury determination, we will issue an antidumping duty order, reinstate the suspension of liquidation under section 736(a) of the Act, and require a cash deposit of estimated antidumping duties for entries of subject merchandise in the amounts indicated above, effective on the date of publication of the ITC's affirmative final determination in the **Federal Register**. If the ITC determines that material injury, or threat of material injury, does not exist, this proceeding will be terminated, and all estimated duties deposited or securities posted as a result of the suspension of liquidation will be refunded or canceled.

Pursuant to section 735(c)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(d), upon resumption of suspension of liquidation, Commerce will also instruct CBP to require a cash deposit for estimated antidumping duties for appropriate entries as follows: (1) for the producer/exporter combinations listed in the table above, the applicable cash deposit rate is listed in the table for that combination; (2) for all combinations of Chinese producers/exporters of subject merchandise that have not established eligibility for a separate rate, including SD and Yongao/Yueleli, the cash deposit rate will be equal to the cash deposit rate listed for the China-wide entity in the table above; and (3) for all third-country exporters of the subject merchandise that are not listed in the table above, the cash deposit rate is the cash deposit rate applicable to the Chinese producer/exporter combination or the China-wide entity that supplied that third-country exporter. These suspension of liquidation instructions will remain in effect until further notice.

To determine the cash deposit rates as the result of an LTFV investigation, Commerce normally adjusts the estimated weighted-average dumping margins by the amount of export subsidies countervailed in the companion countervailing duty (CVD) investigation. Accordingly, where Commerce has made a final affirmative determination of countervailable export subsides, Commerce offsets the estimated weighted average dumping margins in the LTFV investigation by the appropriate export subsidy rate from the companion CVD investigation. As Commerce made an affirmative determination for export subsidies, we have offset the calculated estimated weighted-average dumping margins in the above table by the appropriate export subsidy rates to calculate the applicable cash deposit rates. In the companion CVD final determination, Commerce determined that Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd and all-other companies had an export subsidy rate of 0.02 percent.[16] With respect to the China-wide entity, as AFA, the export subsidy offset is equal to the lesser of the export subsidy rates found for any company in the CVD final determination. Because in companion CVD final determination Commerce only calculated a subsidy rate for Hebei Minmetals Co., Ltd which included and export subsidy rate, *i.e.,* 0.02, Commerce will offset the estimated weighted-average dumping margin determined for the China-wide entity by this amount. Additionally, Commerce will offset all companies eligible for a separate rate by the export subsidy rates found in the companion CVD final determination, *i.e.,* 0.02 percent.

U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC)

In accordance with section 735(d) of the Act, we will notify the ITC of this final affirmative determination of sales at LTFV. Because the final determination in this investigation is affirmative, in accordance with section 735(b)(2) of the Act, the ITC will make its final determination as to whether the domestic industry in the United States is materially injured, or threatened with material injury, by reason of imports of temporary steel fencing no later than 45 days after this final determination. In addition, we are making available to the ITC all nonprivileged and nonproprietary information related to this investigation. If the ITC determines that material injury or threat of material injury does not exist, the proceeding will be terminated and all cash deposits will be refunded or canceled, and suspension of liquidation will be lifted. If the ITC determines that such injury does exist, Commerce will issue an antidumping duty order directing CBP to assess, upon further instructions by Commerce, antidumping duties on all imports of the subject merchandise that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the effective date of the suspension of liquidation, as discussed above in the ''Continuation of Suspension of Liquidation'' section above.

Administrative Protective Order (APO)

In the event that the ITC issues a final negative injury determination, this notice serves as the only reminder to parties subject to an APO of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination and this notice are issued and published pursuant to sections 735(d) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.210(c).

Dated: March 10, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise subject to this investigation is temporary steel fencing. Temporary steel fencing consists of temporary steel fence panels and temporary steel fence stands. Temporary steel fence panels, when assembled with temporary steel fence stands or other types of stands outside

[16] *See* Memorandum, ''Final Calculation of Export Subsidy Offsets,'' dated concurrently with this notice.

of the scope, with each other, or with posts, create a free-standing fence. Temporary steel fence panels are covered by the scope regardless of whether they attach to a stand or the type of stand to which they connect.

Temporary steel fence panels have a welded frame of steel tubing and an interior consisting of chain link, steel wire mesh, or other steel materials that are not more than ten millimeters in actual diameter or width. The steel tubing may surround all edges of the temporary steel fence panel or only be attached along two parallel sides of the panel. All temporary steel fence panels with at least two framed sides are covered by the scope, regardless of the number of edges framed with steel tubing.

Temporary steel fence panels are typically between 10 and 12 feet long and six to eight feet high, though all temporary steel fence panels are covered by the scope regardless of dimension or weight as long as a single panel meets each of the three following criteria: (1) it has over seven and a half square feet in actual surface area; (2) it weighs more than four pounds; and (3) it weighs less than 1.92 pounds per square foot. Temporary steel fence panels may be square, rectangular, or have rounded edges, and may or may not have gates, doors, wheels, or barbed wire or other features, though all temporary steel fence panels are covered by the scope regardless of shape and other features. Temporary steel fence panels may have one or more horizontal, vertical, or diagonal reinforcement tubes made of steel welded to the inside frame, though all temporary steel fence panels are covered by the scope regardless of the existence, number, or type of reinforcement tubes attached to the panel. Temporary steel fence panels may have extensions, pins, tubes, or holes at the bottom of the panel, but all temporary steel fence panels are covered regardless of the existence of such features.

Steel fence stands are shapes made of steel that stand flat on the ground and have one or two open tubes or solid pins into which temporary steel fence panels are inserted to stand erect. The steel fence stand may be made of welded steel tubing or may be a flat steel plate with one or two tubes or pins welded onto the plate for connecting the panels.

Temporary steel fencing is covered by the scope regardless of coating, painting, or other finish. Both temporary steel fence panels and temporary steel fence stands are covered by the scope, whether imported assembled or unassembled, and whether imported together or separately.

Subject merchandise includes material matching the above description that has been finished, assembled, or packaged in a third country, including by coating, painting, assembling, attaching to, or packaging with another product, or any other finishing, assembly, or packaging operation that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the temporary steel fencing.

Temporary steel fencing is included in the scope of this investigation whether or not imported attached to, or in conjunction with, other parts and accessories such as posts, hooks, rings, brackets, couplers, clips, connectors, handles, brackets, or latches. If temporary steel fencing is imported attached to, or in conjunction with, such non-subject merchandise, only the temporary steel fencing is included in the scope.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation are decorative steel fence panels. Decorative steel fence panels are steel fence panels that have all of the following characteristics: (i) the panel's long ends are no more than 48 inches; (ii) the panel's short ends are no more than 38 inches; (iii) the panel weighs 7 pounds or less; (iv) the panel is framed on all sides with steel tubing no wider than 10 mm; and (v) the panel's the interior contains a decorative pattern (meaning a pattern other than square, rectangular, diamond, or hexagonal meshing) accounting for at least 5 percent of the area within the frame.

Merchandise covered by this investigation is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under the subheading 7308.90.9590. Subject merchandise may also enter under subheadings 7326.90.8688 and 7323.99.9080 of the HTSUS. The HTSUS subheadings set forth above are provided for convenience and U.S. Customs purposes only. The written description of the scope is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

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Comment 2: Whether to Apply Total AFA to SD
Comment 3: Whether to Find Critical Circumstances with Respect to Yongao/Yuelei
Comment 4: Whether Commerce Should Treat SD and Yongao/Yuelei as Part of the China-wide Entity
Comment 5: Rate Selection
VIII. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2026–05004 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–489–819]

Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar From the Republic of Türkiye: Final Results of the Expedited Second Sunset Review of the Countervailing Duty Order

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) finds that revocation of the countervailing duty (CVD) order on steel concrete reinforcing bar (rebar) from the Republic of Türkiye (Türkiye) would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of countervailable subsidies at the levels indicated in the ''Final Results of Sunset Review'' section of this notice.

DATES: Applicable March 16, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David de Falco, Trade Agreements Policy and Negotiations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–2178.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 6, 2014, Commerce published the *Order* on rebar from Türkiye.[1] On September 2, 2025, Commerce published the notice of initiation of the second sunset review of the *Order,* pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), and 19 CFR 351.218(c).[2] On September 16, 2025, Commerce received a notice of intent to participate in this sunset review from the Rebar Trade Action Coalition (RTAC), the domestic interested party, within the deadline specified in 19 CFR 351.218(d)(1)(i).[3] RTAC claims that it has interested party status within the meaning of section 771(9)(F) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.102(b)(29)(v) as a coalition of U.S. producers of the domestic like product.[4]

On October 2, 2025, Commerce received an adequate substantive response from the domestic interested party, within the 30-day deadline

[1] *See Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar from the Republic of Turkey: Countervailing Duty Order,* 79 FR 65926, (November 6, 2014) (*Order*).

[2] *See Initiation of Five-Year (Sunset) Reviews,* 90 FR 42388 (September 2, 2025).

[3] *See* RTAC's Letter, ''Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar from the Republic of Turkey: Notice of Intent to Participate in Sunset Review,'' dated September 16, 2025.

[4] *Id.* at 2.

specified in 19 CFR 351.218(d)(3)(i).[5] Commerce did not receive a substantive response from either the Government of Türkiye or a respondent interested party to this proceeding. On December 8, 2025, Commerce notified the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) that it did not receive an adequate substantive response from respondent interested parties.[6] As a result, Commerce conducted an expedited (120-day) sunset review of the *Order,* pursuant to section 751(c)(3)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218(e)(1)(ii)(B)(2) and (C)(2).

Due to the lapse in appropriations and Federal Government shutdown, on November 14, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by 47 days.[7] Additionally, due to a backlog of documents that were electronically filed via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS) during the Federal Government shutdown, on November 24, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by an additional 21 days.[8] Accordingly, the deadline for these final results is now March 9, 2026.

Scope of the Order

The product covered by this *Order* is rebar from Türkiye. For a full description of the scope of the *Order, see* the Issues and Decisions Memorandum.[9]

Analysis of Comments Received

A complete discussion of all issues raised in this sunset review, including the likelihood of continuation or recurrence of subsidization and the countervailable subsidy rates likely to prevail if the *Order* were to be revoked, is contained in the Issues and Decision Memorandum. A list of the topics discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum is attached as an appendix to this notice. The Issues and Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via ACCESS, which is available to registered users at *https://access.trade.gov.* In addition, complete versions of the Issues and Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at *https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx.*

Final Results of Sunset Review

Pursuant to sections 751(c) and 752(b) of the Act, Commerce determines that revocation of the *Order* would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of countervailable subsidies at the following net countervailable subsidy rates:

Producers/exporters	Net countervailable subsidy rate (percent *ad valorem*)
Icdas Celik Enerji Tersanev e Ulasim Sanayi A.S	7.71.
Habas Sinai ve Tibbi Gazlar Istihsal Endustrisi	Excluded from *Order*.
All Others	6.58.

Administrative Protective Order (APO)

This notice also serves as the only reminder to parties subject to an APO of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. Timely notification of the return or destruction of APO materials, or conversion to judicial protective, orders is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation which is subject to sanction.

Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these final results in accordance with sections 751(c), 752(b), and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.221(c)(5)(ii).

Dated: March 9, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix

List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Scope of the *Order*
IV. History of the *Order*
V. Legal Framework
VI. Discussion of the Issues
  1. Likelihood of Continuation or Recurrence of a Countervailable Subsidy
  2. Net Countervailable Subsidy Rates Likely To Prevail
  3. Nature of the Subsidies
VII. Final Results of Sunset Review
VIII. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2026–05101 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

[5] *See* RTAC's Letter, ''Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar from the Republic of Turkey: Substantive Response in Sunset Review,'' dated October 2, 2025.

[6] *See* Commerce's Letter, ''Sunset Reviews Initiated on September 2, 2025,'' dated December 8, 2025.

[7] *See* Memorandum, ''Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government,'' dated November 14, 2025.

[8] *See* Memorandum, ''Tolling of all Case Deadlines,'' dated November 24, 2025.

[9] *See* Memorandum, ''Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Final Results of the Expedited Second Sunset Review of the Countervailing Duty Order on Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar from the Republic of Türkiye,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Issues and Decision Memorandum).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–475–818]

Certain Pasta From Italy: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that certain pasta (pasta) from Italy was sold in the United States at less than normal value during the period of review (POR), July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

DATES: Applicable March 16, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick Barton, AD/CVD Operations, Office III, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–0012.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 4, 2025, Commerce published the *Preliminary Results* of this review in the **Federal Register**, and invited interested parties to comment on those results.[1] Due to the lapse in appropriations and Federal Government shutdown, on November 14, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by 47 days.[2] Additionally, due to a backlog of documents that were electronically filed via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS) during the Federal Government shutdown, on November 24, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by an additional 21 days.[3] The deadline for these final results is March 11, 2026.

On December 31, 2025, Commerce published the Post-Preliminary Analysis, and invited interested parties to comment.[4] For a summary of the events that occurred since the Post-Preliminary Analysis, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.[5] Commerce conducted this administrative review in accordance with section 751(a)(1)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).

Scope of the Order [6]

The product covered by this *Order* is pasta from Italy. For a complete description of the scope, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs are addressed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum. A list of the issues that parties raised, and to which we responded in the Issues and Decision Memorandum, is attached at Appendix I to this notice. The Issues and Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via ACCESS. ACCESS is available to registered users at *https://access.trade.gov.* In addition, a complete version of the Issues and Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at *https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx.*

Changes Since the Post-Preliminary Analysis

Based on our review of the record and comments received from interested parties regarding the *Preliminary Results* and Post-Preliminary Analysis, we made certain changes to the margin calculations for La Molisana, S.p.A. (La Molisana), and Pastificio Lucio Garofalo S.p.A (Garofalo), as well as the rate applied to respondent companies not selected for individual examination. For a discussion of these changes, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

Final Results of Review

Commerce determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margins exist for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024:

Producer or exporter	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
La Molisana, S.p.A	2.65
Pastificio Lucio Garofalo S.p.A	7.00
Non-Selected Companies [7]	5.21

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose to interested parties the calculations performed for these final results in this review within five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Assessment Rate

Pursuant to section 751(a)(2)(A) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1), Commerce shall determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries covered by this review. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1), where the respondent reported the entered value of its U.S. sales, we calculated importer-specific antidumping duty assessment rates by aggregating the total amount of dumping calculated for the examined sales of each importer and dividing each of these amounts by the total entered value associated with those sales. Where the respondent did not report entered value, we calculated a per-unit assessment rate for each importer by dividing the total amount of dumping calculated for the examined sales made to that importer by the total quantity associated with those sales. To determine whether an importer-specific, per-unit assessment rate is *de minimis,* in accordance with 19 CFR 351.106(c)(2), we also calculated an importer-specific *ad valorem* rate based on estimated entered values. Where either the respondent's weighted-average dumping margin is zero or *de minimis* within the meaning of 19 CFR 351.106(c)(1), or an importer-specific assessment rate is zero or *de minimis,* we will instruct CBP to liquidate the appropriate entries without regard to antidumping duties.

Commerce's ''automatic assessment'' will apply to entries of subject merchandise during the POR produced by the mandatory respondents for which the companies did not know that the merchandise they sold to an intermediary (*e.g.,* a reseller, trading company, or exporter) was destined for the United States. In such instances, we will instruct CBP to liquidate unreviewed entries at the all-others rate if there is no rate for the intermediate companies involved in the transaction.

Further, the assessment rate for antidumping duties for each of the companies not selected for individual examination will be equal to the weighted-average dumping margin identified above in ''Final Results of Review.''

Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 35 days after the date of publication of the final results of this review in the **Federal Register**. If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for a statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.,* within 90 days of publication).

Cash Deposit Requirements

The following cash deposit requirements will be effective for all shipments of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date of the final results of this administrative review, as provided by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) the cash deposit rates for the companies identified above in the ''Final Results of Review'' section will be equal to the company-specific weighted-average dumping margin established in the final results of this administrative review; (2) for merchandise exported by a company

[1] *See Certain Pasta from Italy: Preliminary Results and Rescission, in Part, of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024,* 90 FR 42473 (September 4, 2025) (*Preliminary Results*), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

[2] *See* Memorandum, ''Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government,'' dated November 14, 2025.

[3] *See* Memorandum, ''Tolling of all Case Deadlines,'' dated November 24, 2025.

[4] *See* Memoranda, ''Post-Preliminary Analysis for the 2023–2024 Administrative Review of Pasta from Italy,'' dated December 31, 2025 (Post-Preliminary Analysis); and ''Briefing Schedule,'' dated January 2, 2026.

[5] *See* Memorandum, ''Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Certain Pasta from Italy; 2023–2024,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Issues and Decision Memorandum).

[6] *See Notice of Antidumping Duty Order and Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Pasta from Italy,* 61 FR 38547 (July 24, 1996) (*Order*).

[7] *See* Appendix II for a full list of the companies not individually examined in this review.

not covered in this administrative review but covered in a completed prior segment of the proceeding, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the company-specific rate published for the most recently completed segment of this proceeding; (3) if the exporter is not a firm covered in this review or completed prior segment of this proceeding but the producer is, the cash deposit rate will be the company-specific rate established for the most recently-completed segment of this proceeding for the producer of the subject merchandise; and (4) the cash deposit rate for all other producers or exporters will continue to be 15.45 percent, the rate established in the *Section 129 Determination*.[8] These cash deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Notification to Importers

This notice serves as a final reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping and/or countervailing duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this POR. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in Commerce's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping and/or countervailing duties has occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties, and/or an increase in the amount of antidumping duties by the amount of the countervailing duties.

Administrative Protective Order (APO)

This notice also serves as a final reminder to parties subject to an APO of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3), which continues to govern business proprietary information in this segment of the proceeding. Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials, or conversion to judicial protective order, is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and the terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing this notice in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(5) and 19 CFR 351.213(h)(1).

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
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IV. Changes Since the Post-Preliminary Analysis
V. Discussion of the Issues
Comment 1: Domestic Interested Parties' Case Briefs
Comment 2: Application of Adverse Facts Available (AFA) to Garofalo and La Molisana
Comment 3: Commerce's Differential Pricing Analysis
Comment 4: Non-Selected Respondents' Rate
Comment 5: Garofalo's U.S. Market Indirect Selling Expenses (ISE)
Comment 6: Commerce's Rejection of New Factual Information (NFI)
Comment 7: Commerce's Liquidation Instructions
Comment 8: Garofalo's Home Market Discounts
Comment 9: Garofalo's Home Market Rebates
Comment 10: Garofalo's Home Market Billing Adjustments
Comment 11: Garofalo's U.S. Market Warranty Expenses (WARRU)
Comment 12: Whether Lupini Pasta is Subject to Review
Comment 13: La Molisana's Home Market Rebates
Comment 14: La Molisana's Home Market Discounts and Free Merchandise
Comment 15: La Molisana's Revenue and Expense Reporting for Lupini Pasta
Comment 16: La Molisana's Packing Expenses
Comment 17: La Molisana's Credit Expenses
Comment 18: Commerce's Protein Content Methodology
VI. Recommendation

Appendix II

Non-Individually Examined Companies Receiving a Review-Specific Rate

1. Agritalia S.r.L
2. Aldino S.r.l
3. Antiche Tradizioni Di Gragnano S.R.L.
4. Barilla G. e R. Fratelli Societa per Azioni Socio Unico
5. Gruppo Milo SpA
6. Pastificio Artigiano Cav. Giuseppe Cocco S.R.L.
7. Pastificio Chiavenna S.r.l
8. Pastificio Liguori S.p.A.; PAM S.P.A.; PAM S.R.L.; Liquori Pastificio Dal 1820 S.P.A.; Pastificio Della Forma S.r.L.
9. Pastificio Sgambaro
10. Pastificio Tamma S.r.l.
11. Rummo S.p.A.; Pasta Castiglioni S.r.l.; Molino e Pastificio (Rummo); Rummo Lenta Lavorazione S.p.A.

[8] *See Implementation of the Findings of the WTO Panel in US-Zeroing (EC): Notice of Determinations Under Section 129 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and Revocations and Partial Revocations of Certain Antidumping Duty Orders,* 72 FR 25261 (May 4, 2007) (*Section 129 Determination*).

[FR Doc. 2026–05099 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program

AGENCY: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before May 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at *NOAA.PRA@noaa.gov.* Please reference OMB Control Number 0648–0269 in the subject line of your comments. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted on *https://www.regulations.gov* without change. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Molly Zaleski, National Marine Fisheries Service, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802–1668, by phone (907) 586–7228, or by email at *molly.zaleski@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office, is requesting extension of a currently

approved information collection that contains four components necessary for NMFS to manage the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program (CDQ Program).

NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council manage the groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands are managed under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area.

The CDQ Program is an economic development program authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to provide eligible western Alaska villages with the opportunity to participate and invest in fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area, to support economic development in western Alaska, to alleviate poverty and provide economic and social benefits for residents of western Alaska, and to achieve sustainable and diversified local economies in western Alaska.

This information collection is used by NMFS to manage the small vessel CDQ fisheries, transfer quota among the CDQ groups, and authorize the use of alternative harvest regulations under certain circumstances.

This information collection contains the following four components:

- The CDQ Vessel Registration System is an online system used by the CDQ groups to add small hook-and-line catcher vessels to the CDQ vessel registration list. Registered vessels are exempt from the requirements to obtain and carry a License Limitation Program license under regulations at 50 part 679. This system is also used to remove vessels from the CDQ vessel registration list.
- The Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and Prohibited Species Quota (PSQ) Transfer Request form is used to transfer annual amounts of groundfish and halibut CDQ and PSQ, except Bering Sea Chinook salmon, between two CDQ groups. This form is completed by the transferring and receiving CDQ groups.
- The Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations is used by a CDQ group, an association representing CDQ groups, or a voluntary fishing cooperative to request approval to use non-CDQ harvest regulations when the CDQ regulations are more restrictive than the regulations otherwise required for participants in non-CDQ groundfish fisheries.
- An appeals process is provided for an applicant who receives an adverse initial administrative determination related to its Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations.

II. Method of Collection

The information is collected by mail, fax, delivery, email, and electronically through eFISH. The applications are available as fillable PDFs on the NMFS Alaska Region website at *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/alaska-community-development-quota-cdq-program-applications-and-forms.*

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0648–0269.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Review: Regular submission [extension of a current information collection].

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 6.

Estimated Time per Response: CDQ Vessel Registration System, 10 minutes; Groundfish/Halibut CDQ and PSQ Transfer Request, 30 minutes; Application for Approval of Use of Non-CDQ Harvest Regulations, 5 hours; Appeals, 4 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 36.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0 in recordkeeping and reporting costs.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to Obtain or Retain Benefits.

Legal Authority: Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this information collection request. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2026–05110 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF604]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, has made a preliminary determination that an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) application contains all of the required information and warrants further consideration. The EFP would allow federally permitted fishing vessels to fish outside fishery regulations in support of exempted fishing activities proposed by the Northeast Seafood Coalition, in partnership with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF). Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before March 31, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments by email: *nmfs.gar.efp@noaa.gov.* Include in the subject line ''Targeted Inshore Cod Protection Closure Spawning Evaluation 2026.'' All comments received are a part of the public record and may be posted for public viewing without change. All

personal identifying information (*e.g.,* name, address), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter ''anonymous'' as the signature if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christine Ford, Fishery Management Specialist, *christine.ford@noaa.gov,* 978–281–9185.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The applicant submitted a complete application for an EFP to conduct commercial fishing activities that the regulations would otherwise restrict. This EFP would exempt the participating vessels from the following Federal regulations:

TABLE 1—REQUESTED EXEMPTIONS

CFR citation	Regulation	Need for exemption
50 CFR 648.81(d)(1) insofar as it applies to 50 CFR 648.81(d)(4)(i), (ii), and (iii).	Restrictions on fishing for NE multispecies, or having fishing gear capable of catching NE multispecies, on board a vessel in Gulf of Maine (GOM) Cod Protection Closure Areas I, II, and III.	To collect data on the presence/absence of spawning cod in targeted areas of GOM Cod Protection Closure Areas I, II, and III.
50 CFR 648.83	Restriction on retention of cod under the minimum fish size of 19 inches (48.3 cm).	To collect sex and maturity data of all cod, including sublegal sized cod, caught in targeted areas of GOM Cod Protection Closure Areas I, II, and III.

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Exploration of targeted commercial groundfish sector access to inshore cod protection closures to better optimize overall yield of other allocated groundfish stocks and provide cod spawning information for the New England Fishery Management Council's (NEFMC) Phase 2 of the Atlantic Cod Transition Plan.
Project start	05/01/2026.
Project end	11/30/2026.
Project objectives	To generate data to evaluate Western Gulf of Maine cod spawning activity in spring seasonal groundfish closures, in support of the NEFMC priority to assess closures as part of Phase 2 of the Atlantic Cod Transition Plan. Assess ability of the groundfish fishing industry to harvest healthy groundfish stocks, without undermining groundfish conservation and management measures.
Project location	Statistical Areas 132, 133, and 124.
Number of vessels	14.
Number of trips	Up to 178.
Trip duration (days)	1.
Total number of days	Up to 178.
Gear type(s)	Bottom trawl.
Number of tows or sets	Up to 4 per trip.
Duration of tows or sets	Up to 4 hours.

TABLE 3—CATCH COMPOSITION ESTIMATES

[Based on Sector II and XII; May, June, November 2024]

Species	Retained (live weight; pound (lb) /kilogram (kg))	Discarded (lb/kg)
Atlantic cod	26,277/11,919	726/329
Winter flounder	29,544/13,401	1,871/849
Haddock	49,228/22,329	2,410/1,093
White hake	1,283/582	160/73
American plaice	76,155/34,543	8,260/3,747
Pollock	518/235	212/96
Redfish	5,349/2,426	2,059/934
Witch flounder	27,121/12,302	926/420
Yellowtail flounder	131,222/59,521	18,003/8,166

Project Narrative

The purpose of this project is to continue to support industry access to healthy groundfish stocks, while evaluating the utility of seasonal cod protection closure areas, and collecting biological samples of cod. Under the 2025 EFP (#25006), a system was established to increase access to available groundfish stocks without jeopardizing cod spawning aggregations. On May 13, 2025, three vessels fished under the EFP, completing four total tows. Although the EFP was only in effect for 1 day of fishing, the outcome reflected the effectiveness of real-time monitoring and communication protocols, which triggered an immediate suspension of the EFP once the spawning cod threshold was reached in Area B. Fishing did not occur in Area A due to the prevalence of fixed fishing gear. By incorporating targeted modifications informed by the 2025 EFP, the proposed EFP would provide modified access while maintaining strict monitoring and protection for spawning cod. Specific modifications would include, but not be limited to: (1) narrowing the footprint of Area A to foster cooperation with the lobster industry and allow the deployment of

bottom trawl gear; (2) altering the northern boundary of Area B and splitting Area B into two areas (B1 and B2) to reduce the risk of catching cod closer to Jeffrey's Ledge; and (3) adding an Area C, which would provide additional access at a different time of year and for vessels from other ports.

Under this EFP, participating fishermen would conduct tows in targeted areas within GOM Cod Protection Closures I, II, and III, where industry-based groundfish surveys previously demonstrated low spawning cod density compared to other portions of the closure (Attachment). Vessels would submit trip notification to the Pre-Trip Notification System as usual. Vessels would only be allowed in targeted areas if they have a Northeast Fisheries Observer or At-sea Monitor aboard, or participate in an approved electronic monitoring program for the trip. Tows conducted within the targeted areas would be restricted to remain inside the area for the entire tow; however, vessels could make tows both inside and outside the target area on the same trip. Upon departure for a trip, vessels would notify a MA DMF project coordinator about intent to fish in the target areas. Up to 80 total tows would be conducted in Area A; up to 48 total tows would be conducted in Areas B1 and B2 combined; and up to 50 total tows would be conducted in Area C.

During all trips under the EFP, cod of all sizes caught in each tow conducted within the target areas would be kept round (not gutted), and isolated in separate totes with sealed and zip-tied lids. Cod caught in tows conducted outside the target areas would be handled consistent with standard fishing practices. Upon returning from a trip, vessels would contact MA DMF to meet them to sample target area-caught cod for sex and maturity. Additional sampling would be conducted to support the Northeast Fisheries Science Center conversion factor study. All catch would be accounted for consistent with standard fishing activities and applicable Annual Catch Entitlement, and legal size catch would be sold.

If MA DMF detects spawning cod caught in tows within the target areas to be at or above proposed thresholds, participating vessels would no longer be authorized to fish under the EFP within that particular target area (each of the four target areas (A, B1, B2, and C) will be evaluated separately). MA DMF defines spawning cod as females with clear eggs or males with running milt (either expressed externally, or when the testes are cut through). The proposed thresholds are more than five spawning cod in one tow or more than 18 percent of tows within a 7-day consecutive fishing period containing any spawning cod. MA DMF would immediately notify participating sector managers and NMFS if a cod spawning threshold has been reached.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 12, 2026.

David R. Blankinship,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05069 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF589]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) and Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) will hold a joint webinar meeting that is open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will be held Friday, April 3, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time, or until business for the day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements, will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see *https://www.pcouncil.org*). You may send an email to Mr. Hayden York (*hayden.york@pcouncil.org*) or contact him at (503) 820–2424 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kerry Griffin, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2409.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of this meeting is to consider topics on the Council's April meeting agenda. There are no HMS-specific agenda items. However, the HMSMT and HMSAS may discuss and potentially develop supplemental reports on Cross Fishery Management Plan agenda items H.1 (Special Project 1—Adaptive Management and Flexibility) and H.2 (Council and NMFS Workload—Capacity Alignment).

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Hayden York (*hayden.york@pcouncil.org;* (503) 820–2424) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05093 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF584]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) will convene an online meeting of its Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG), which is open to the public.

DATES: The online meeting will be held Friday, April 3, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 4

p.m. Pacific Time, or until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see *www.pcouncil.org*). You may send an email to Mr. Hayden York (*hayden.york@pcouncil.org*) or contact him at (503) 820–2424 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gilly Lyons, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2427.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EWG will meet via webinar to discuss items relevant to ecosystem management and cross-fishery management planning in advance of the Pacific Council's April 7–12, 2026, meeting. A detailed meeting agenda will be available on the Pacific Council's website prior to the meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Hayden York (*hayden.york@pcouncil.org;* (503) 820–2424) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05090 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF573]

Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of permits.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that permits, including amendments and modifications, have been issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as applicable.

ADDRESSES: The permits and related documents are available for review upon written request via email to *NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Skidmore (File Nos. 23447 and 29101), Amy Hapeman (File No. 28338), and Erin Markin, Ph.D., (File No. 20528); at (301) 427–8401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The requested permits have been issued under the MMPA of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the ESA of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222–226), as applicable. Notices were published in the **Federal Register** on the dates listed below that requests had been submitted. To locate the **Federal Register** notice that announced our receipt of the application and a complete description of the activities, go to *https://www.federalregister.gov* and search for the file number provided in table 1 below.

TABLE 1—ISSUED PERMITS

File No.	Version No.	RTID	Applicant	Previous **Federal Register** notice	Issuance date
20528	06	0648–XF208	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, 217 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412 (Responsible Party: Bill Post).	90 FR 47300, October 1, 2025.	February 13, 2026.
23447	01	0648–XA919	Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums, 218 N Lee Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314 (Responsible Party: Kathleen Dezio).	86 FR 13700, March 10, 2021.	February 5, 2026.
28338	01	0648–XF255	Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, San Jose Industrial Park, 1375 Avenue Ponce de Leon, San Juan, PR 00926 (Responsible Party: Nilda Jimenez-Marrero, Ph.D.).	90 FR 57030, December 9, 2025.	February 11, 2026.
29101	N/A	0648–XF409	Amanda Lauer, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, 720 Rutland Avenue, Traylor Building, Room 515, Baltimore, MD 21205.	91 FR 253, January 5, 2026.	February 19, 2026.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), a final determination has been made that the activities proposed are categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

As required by the ESA, as applicable, issuance was based on a finding that such permits: (1) were applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of such endangered species; and (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–04992 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF579]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Pacific Council) Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will hold a virtual meeting to discuss matters relevant to the April 2026 Pacific Council meeting. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The SSC meeting will be held Friday, April 3, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. (Pacific Time) or until business for the day has been completed.

ADDRESSES: The SSC meeting will be conducted online. Specific meeting information, materials, and instructions for how to connect to the meeting remotely will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see *www.pcouncil.org*). Please contact Hayden York (*hayden.york@pcouncil.org*) or (503) 820–2424 for technical assistance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Perry, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2414, email: *Diana.Perry@pcouncil.org*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SSC meeting will focus on Widow rockfish alternative harvest control rules, Sacramento River Fall Chinook Terms of Reference, and Groundfish harvest specifications. Additionally, the Committee may also discuss any other topics on the Pacific Council's April agenda. The SSC will prepare their recommendations for Pacific Council consideration at their April 2026 meeting. No management actions will be decided by the SSC.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during these meetings. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Hayden York (*hayden.york@pcouncil.org;* (503) 820–2424) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05091 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF581]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is holding a hybrid public meeting of its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This meeting will be held on Monday, March 30, 2026, beginning at 9 a.m. EST. Webinar Registration information: *https://nefmc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/Ap6Uf9cxQoWMJgXx9q72bg.*

ADDRESSES: This meeting will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn, 100 Boardman Street, Boston, MA 02128, Phone: (617) 567–6789.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) will meet and discuss the 2026 State of the Ecosystem Report (SOE) for New England compiled by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center: identify the key signals described therein that the Council should consider when making management decisions over the next year; discuss strategies for operationalizing these reports for SSC and Council deliberations and recommend improvements to future reports. They will also receive updates on Risk Policy and provide feedback on the following: Risk Policy Concept, including revisions to the number of factors; draft instructions for the SSC and Plan Development Teams on using the Risk Policy; mechanics and proposed implementation of the Risk Policy; worked example(s) of applying the Risk Policy with an ABC Control Rule. The SSC will receive an update and provide input on plans for an SSC workshop on dynamic reference points in June 2026. Other business will be discussed as necessary.

Although non-emergency issues not contained on the agenda may come before this Council for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Council action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency. The public also should be aware that the meeting will be recorded. Consistent with 16 U.S.C. 1852, a copy of the recording is available upon request.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cate O'Keefe, Executive Director, at 978–465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–04996 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF578]

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) will convene an online meeting of its Advisory Bodies to discuss the Pacific Council's Special Project 1: Adaptive Management and Flexibility; this meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The online meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Pacific Time, or until business for the day is completed.

ADDRESSES: This meeting will be held online. Specific meeting information, including directions on how to join the meeting and system requirements, will be provided in the meeting announcement on the Pacific Council's website (see *www.pcouncil.org*). You may send an email to Mr. Hayden York (*hayden.york@pcouncil.org*) or contact him at (503) 820–2424 for technical assistance.

Council address: Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220–1384.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gilly Lyons, Staff Officer, Pacific Council; telephone: (503) 820–2427.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Pacific Council will hold an online meeting of its Advisory Bodies to review materials related to and discuss next steps in the implementation of Special Project 1: Adaptive Management and Flexibility, which will be on the Pacific Council's agenda at its April 6–12, 2026, meeting. Special Project 1 is focused on identifying processes and actions that may improve the Pacific Council's ability to respond to rapidly changing conditions. No management actions will be decided at this meeting, but recommendations may be brought forward for consideration by the Pacific Council at its April meeting. A detailed meeting agenda will be available on the Pacific Council's website prior to the meeting.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in the meeting agenda may be discussed, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this document and any issues arising after publication of this document that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Mr. Hayden York (*hayden.york@pcouncil.org;* (503) 820–2424) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Rey Israel Marquez,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–05092 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

[Docket No. CPSC–2009–0073]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Extension of Collection; Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act Verification of Compliance Form

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or Commission) announces that the Commission has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request for extension of approval of information collection regarding a form used to verify whether pools and spas are in compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. OMB previously approved the collection of information under control number 3041–0142. OMB's most recent extension of approval will expire on March 31, 2026. On December 16, 2025, CPSC published a notice in the **Federal Register** to announce the agency's intention to seek extension of approval of the collection of information. The Commission did not receive any public comments. Therefore, by publication of this notice, the Commission announces that CPSC has submitted to OMB a request for extension of approval of that collection of information.

DATES: Submit comments on the collection of information by April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments about this request by email: *OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax: 202–395–6881. Comments by mail should be sent to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the CPSC, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Written comments that are sent to OMB also should be submitted electronically at *http://www.regulations.gov,* under Docket No. CPSC–2009–0073.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cynthia Gillham, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814; (301) 504–7791, or by email to: *pra@cpsc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CPSC seeks to renew the following currently approved collection of information:

Title: Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act Verification of Compliance Form.

OMB Number: 3041–0142.

Type of Review: Renewal of collection.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Affected Public: Public pools and spa facilities.

General Description of Collection: The CPSC administers and oversees compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA), 15 U.S.C. Ch. 106. The VGBA is designed to prevent the tragic and hidden hazard of drain entrapment and evisceration in public pools and spas. To achieve its purposes, the VGBA requires, among other things, each swimming pool and spa drain cover manufactured, distributed, or introduced into commerce meet specific requirements of the CPSC recognized performance standard, and that each public pool and spa be equipped with anti-entrapment devices or systems that comply with the recognized performance standard. 15 U.S.C. 8003; 16 CFR part 1450.

CPSC, directly or through State contracted employees, inspects and assesses public pools and spas for compliance. A compliance form is used to record observations and assessments of compliance. The VGBA Form is available for viewing at *https://www.regulations.gov* under docket number, CPSC–2009–0073, ''Supporting and Related Material.''

Estimated Number of Respondents: CPSC compliance staff estimates that 50

inspections are completed annually, based on a review of prior completed inspections.

Estimated Time per Response: CPSC estimates that three hours will be required to inspect a pool or spa facility.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: CPSC estimates that total annual burden hours are at most 150 (50 inspections × 3 hours per inspection).

Total Estimated Annual Cost to Respondents: CPSC estimates that hourly compensation for the time required for inspecting is $76.45 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, ''Employer Costs for Employee Compensation,'' June 2025, Table 4, total compensation for management, professional, and related workers in private service-producing industries: Employer Costs for Employee Compensation News Release—2025 Q02 Results). Therefore, CPSC estimates the annual cost to be $11,468 ($76.45 × 150 = $11,467.50).

Alberta E. Mills, Secretary,

Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 2026–04998 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Notice of Solicitation of Input on Potential Future Changes to Nationwide Permits; Establishment of a Public Docket; Request for Input

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice; solicitation of input.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is seeking input from all interested parties on ways to increase the efficiency of the nationwide permit program. The Corps will consider this input in future rulemaking related to the nationwide permits. The nationwide permits authorize activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

DATES: In order to be considered, comments must be received in *regulations.gov* or postmarked on or before May 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments, identified by docket number COE–2026–0001, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CECW–CO–R, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314–1000.

Due to security requirements, we cannot receive comments by hand delivery or courier or uploaded on external storage devices.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this notice. All comments received will be posted without change to *http://www.regulations.gov,* including any personal information provided, unless the commenter indicates that the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI, or otherwise protected, through *regulations.gov.* The *regulations.gov* website is an anonymous access system, which means we will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Katherine McCafferty at 513–310–4196 or access the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Home Page at *https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), Department of the Army (DA) authorization is required for discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), DA authorization is required for any construction of any structure in, under, or over any navigable water of the United States; the excavating from or depositing of material in navigable waters of the United States; or the accomplishment of any other work affecting the course, location, condition, or capacity of navigable waters of the United States. Under Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413), DA authorization is required for the transportation and disposal of dredged material into ocean waters.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issues individual and general permits to authorize activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The Corps also issues individual permits to authorize activities under Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. The Chief of Engineers and his or her designated representatives have been delegated the authority to issue individual permits and general permits from the Secretary of the Army.

Reducing unnecessary paperwork and delays is a continuing Corps goal. General permits provide applicants a streamlined process to obtain DA authorization in exchange for avoiding and minimizing impacts to jurisdictional aquatic resources. Nationwide permits (NWPs) are a type of general permit. The NWP program is designed to provide timely authorizations for the regulated public while protecting the jurisdictional aquatic resources.

Section 404(e) of the Clean Water Act provides the authority for the Corps, after notice and opportunity for public hearing, to issue general permits on a nationwide basis for any category of activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. The categories of activities authorized by NWPs issued pursuant to section 404(e) of the Clean Water Act must be similar in nature, cause only minimal adverse environmental effects when performed separately, and have only minimal cumulative adverse effect on the environment (33 U.S.C. 1344(e)(1)). An NWP issued under Section 404(e) of the Clean Water Act is in effect for a period of no more than five years after the date of its issuance (33 U.S.C. 1344(e)).

The Corps also issues NWPs to streamline the authorization process for activities that require authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 prohibits any obstructions to the navigable capacity of any waters of the United States ''unless the work has been recommended by the Chief of Engineers and authorized by the Secretary of the Army prior to beginning the same.'' Since 1975, the Corps has issued general permits under section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (see 40 FR 31335). The Corps has issued NWPs under the authority of section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act since 1977 (see 42 FR 37140).

The Corps has not issued NWPs for activities subject to Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, as amended. Section 103 of the MPRSA authorizes the Secretary of the Army to ''issue permits, after notice and opportunity for public hearings, for the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of dumping it into ocean waters.'' Corps regulations (33 CFR

330.1(g)) state that NWPs can be issued to satisfy the permit requirements of Section 103 of the MPRSA. NWPs were first issued by the Corps in 1977 (42 FR 37122). After 1977, NWPs have been issued or reissued in 1982 (47 FR 31794), 1984 (49 FR 39478), 1986 (51 FR 41206), 1991 (56 FR 59110), 1995 (60 FR 38650), 1996 (61 FR 65874), 2000 (65 FR 12818), 2002 (67 FR 2020), 2007 (72 FR 11092), 2012 (77 FR 10184), 2017 (82 FR 1860), 2021 (86 FR 2744 and 86 FR 73522), and 2026 (91 FR 768).

The 2021 NWPs (86 FR 2744 and 86 FR 73522) expired on March 14, 2026. On June 18, 2025, the Corps proposed to reissue the NWPs (90 FR 26100) with modest modifications to the 2021 NWPs. The final action to issue the 2026 NWPs was published in the **Federal Register** on January 8, 2026, and went into effect on March 15, 2026. The 2026 NWPs will expire on March 15, 2031, unless they are modified or reissued before that date.

The issuance or reissuance of the NWPs by the Chief of Engineers imposes limitations on jurisdictional activities authorized by those NWPs. These limitations are expressed in the NWP terms and general conditions that apply to all NWPs. Division engineers may also impose limitations on jurisdictional activities authorized by NWPs on a regional basis (*e.g.,* within a Corps district or state). These regional limitations are expressed in regional conditions. For some NWPs, if the project proponent's proposed activities comply with all applicable terms and conditions of those NWPs, then the project proponent can commence the authorized activities without reporting those activities to Corps district offices. Other NWPs require project proponents to submit pre-construction notifications (PCNs) to Corps districts prior to proceeding with the authorized activities. For these NWPs which require PCNs, district engineers determine whether the project proponents' proposed activities are authorized by an NWP. The terms and conditions, including regional conditions, apply to all NWPs regardless of whether preconstruction notification is required.

When a PCN is submitted, Corps districts evaluate proposed NWP activities on a case-by-case basis to ensure that they comply with the applicable statutory authority will cause no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, individually and cumulatively. The district engineer may add conditions to the NWP authorization to ensure that the verified NWP activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects consistent with processes and requirements set out in 33 CFR 330.5(d). When a district engineer reviews a PCN and determines that the proposed activity qualifies for NWP authorization, he or she will issue a written NWP verification to the permittee (see 33 CFR 330.6(a)(3)).

In most cases, an applicant can begin the regulated activity in jurisdictional waters if the district does not respond within 45 days of receiving a complete PCN. However, there are certain circumstances when the 45-day timeframe does not apply. The project proponent must wait for written verification if a PCN is required by general conditions 16 (Wild and Scenic Rivers), 18 (Endangered Species), 20 (Historic Properties), and/or 31 (Activities Affecting Structures of Works Built by the United States); if the activity is proposed for authorization under NWP 49 (Coal Remining Activities); and/or when the proposed activity requires a waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP. When any of these circumstances apply, the applicant may not begin jurisdictional activities until they receive verification in writing that the activity may proceed under the NWP. District engineers also have authority under 33 CFR 330.5(d) to modify, suspend, or revoke the NWP authorization on a case-specific basis.

II. Review of the Nationwide Permits

Pursuant to Corps regulations at 33 CFR 330.5(b)(1), anyone may, at any time, suggest to the Chief of Engineers that he or she consider any new NWPs or conditions for issuance, or changes to existing NWPs. In addition, the Chief of Engineers must review NWPs within five years of issuance and propose modification, revocation, or reissuance. Independent of receiving suggestions to issue new NWPs or modify existing NWPs, or the normal 5-year review cycle, the Chief of Engineers has discretion to periodically review the NWPs and their conditions and initiate the process for proposing to modify, reissue, or revoke the NWPs (see 33 CFR 330.5(b) and 330.6(b)). Comments received in response to this notice will inform potential modifications to the NWPs that may occur before the 2026 NWPs expire on March 15, 2031.

The purpose of this notice is to announce that the Corps is seeking input on the NWPs, including but not limited to: measures to eliminate unnecessary review over activities that require DA authorization; measures to increase permitting efficiency; measures to increase efficiency in the review of pre-construction notifications or issuance of NWP verifications; categories of activities that are similar in nature; measures to improve conditions or processes that would ensure that discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States would cause no more than minimal adverse environmental effects; and measures to ensure work or structures do not obstruct the navigable capacity of a navigable water of the United States. Additionally, we invite your views on whether any other revisions are needed to the existing regulations regarding the nationwide permit program at 33 CFR part 330, or the implementation of the nationwide permit program. The Corps seeks input from a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties, representing all perspectives, in order to make informed decisions regarding the NWPs. Stakeholders and interested parties include, but are not limited to, applicants, other regulatory agencies, States, tribal nations, entities representing nonprofit organizations or industry interests, and individuals. A series of questions are posed below in the Stakeholder Engagement Section to assist in framing such input.

This notice does not propose specific modifications to the NWPs. It is intended to develop a record to inform future reissuance or modifications to the NWPs. After considering the comments received, any decision to reissue, modify, or revoke the NWPs will occur after notice and opportunity for a public hearing, in accordance with Executive Order 12866 Regulatory Planning and Review and the Administrative Procedure Act.

The Corps encourages comments on all aspects of the NWPs that are within the scope of the Corps' authority or within the Corps' scope of analysis for the issuance of the NWPs. The scope of the Corps' authority is limited to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States; work and structures in, under, or over any navigable water of the United States; the excavation from or depositing of material in navigable waters of the United States; the accomplishment of any work affecting the course, location, condition, or capacity of navigable waters of the United States; and the transport of dredged material to ocean waters for the purpose of disposal. The scope of the Corps' analysis is the extent of the impact of regulated activities in jurisdictional waters as defined by the Corps implementing regulations (33 CFR part 330), the public interest review regulations (33 CFR 320.4), and applicable federal procedural laws and associated implementing regulations.

The Corps must comply with other federal procedural laws before taking

action under the Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, or MPRSA, including but not limited to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Corps completes the public interest review, and the 404(b)(1) guidelines analysis (40 CFR 230) when applicable, at the national level each time the NWPs are reissued. Corps Headquarters also completes an environmental document under NEPA, and documents compliance with Section 7 of the ESA, Section 106 of the NHPA, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271–1287), and the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801). During the district engineer's case-specific review of a PCN, Corps districts also comply with Section 7 of the ESA, Section 106 of NHPA, and where appropriate, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management Act to address the specific impacts of a proposed NWP-specific activity.

The Corps does not have statutory authority over all aspects of construction activities, and there is seldom a single Federal agency charged by Congress with the authority to regulate siting, construction, or operation of projects that impact jurisdictional waters. The Corps is neither a proponent nor opponent of any project proposal, and generally, activities outside jurisdictional waters are not regulated by the Corps.

III. Stakeholder Engagement

The Corps poses a series of questions detailed below for stakeholder input. These questions are only guideposts for comments. Written input on all aspects of the NWP program is welcome.

To be most useful and most effective at informing decisions on any future action, comments should be specific and substantive. Commenters may find the following suggestions helpful in preparing comments: clearly state the issue or concern; make recommendations for how to resolve the issue of concern; explain the reasoning behind the comments; and provide or reference any supporting information (law, regulation, data, reports, studies, expert opinions, or examples) to support the comments that may be useful for the Corps to consider.

1. What measures should the Corps consider that would eliminate unnecessary review over jurisdictional activities that do not require heightened scrutiny? For instance, are there any PCN requirements, NWP impact limits, or general conditions that should be modified or should remain unchanged?

2. What measures should the Corps consider that would improve or maintain efficiency in the review of pre-construction notifications or issuance of NWP verifications? For instance, are there any requirements for agency coordination of a PCN, contents of a complete PCN, or verification compliance with applicable federal procedural laws and implementing regulations that should be modified or remain unchanged?

3. What categories of activities that are similar in nature should the Corps consider for establishing new NWPs?

4. What measures should the Corps consider to ensure that discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States would cause no more than minimal adverse environmental affects both individually and cumulatively? For instance, are there NWP terms, general conditions, or processes that should be modified or remain unchanged?

5. What measures should the Corps consider to develop NWPs, terms, general conditions, or processes for the transportation and disposal of dredged material into ocean waters?

6. What measures should the Corps consider to improve existing regulations regarding general permits or the implementation of the nationwide permit program? For instance, what changes should the Corps consider that would increase the efficiency of the Chief of Engineer's decision-making process to reissue the NWPs?

Jason E. Kelly,

Major General, U.S. Army, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations.

[FR Doc. 2026–05051 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720–58–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2025–SCC–0517]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Required Information for Annual Improper Payment Estimation

AGENCY: Federal Student Aid (FSA), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing a new information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for proposed information collection requests should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice. Click on this link *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain* to access the site. Find this information collection request (ICR) by selecting ''Department of Education'' under ''Currently Under Review,'' then check the ''Only Show ICR for Public Comment'' checkbox. *Reginfo.gov* provides two links to view documents related to this information collection request. Information collection forms and instructions may be found by clicking on the ''View Information Collection (IC) List'' link. Supporting statements and other supporting documentation may be found by clicking on the ''View Supporting Statement and Other Documents'' link.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Carolyn Rose, (202) 453–5967.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Required Information for Annual Improper Payment Estimation.

OMB Control Number: 1845–NEW.

Type of Review: New ICR.

Respondents/Affected Public: Private Sector; State, Local, and Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 3,349.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 1,089.

Abstract: Federal Student Aid (FSA) administers the Department of Education's Federal student financial aid programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. Under these programs, institutions of higher education act as a fiduciary in receiving grant and loan funds from the Department for the sole

purpose of allowing students to pay the costs of attendance at the institution. The Department executes a two-stage Sampling and Estimation Methodology Plan (S&EMP) that is based in part on the results of compliance audits to estimate its improper payments and unknown payments in accordance with the Public Law 116–117, Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 (PIIA) and OMB Circular A–123, Appendix C (A–123C). The Department requires sample, population, and as applicable, finding information regarding testing performed by the auditors, however, this is not reported with the compliance audit. This information is necessary to execute FSA's S&EMP.

The legal and administrative requirements that necessitate the collection of this information are the audit access provisions in 2 CFR 200.517(b) and Title IV regulations at 34 CFR 668.23(e)(1)(ii), which the Department has concluded gives it the authority to collect certain information from the single audit in order for the Department to carry out its oversight responsibilities with regard to improper payments and unknown payments. PIIA section 3352 (31 U.S.C. 3352) requires federal agencies to review all programs and activities they administer that may be susceptible to significant improper payments and publish the payment integrity information annually.

This is a request for a new information collection to develop a form for institutions of higher education to have a mechanism to report to the Department information required to carry out the S&EMP and publish payment integrity information on an annual basis.

Ross Santy,

Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2026–05109 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 14851–003]

White Pine Waterpower, LLC; Notice of Revised Schedule for White Pine Pumped Storage Project

This notice revises the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) schedule for processing White Pine Waterpower, LLC's (White Pine) license application for the White Pine Pumped Storage Project. A prior notice issued on March 3, 2025, identified an anticipated schedule for issuance of draft and final National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and a final order for the project. After the issuance of that notice, White Pine requested an extension of time to complete its hydrogeologic study with a final study report to be filed by January 31, 2027. Commission staff issued a letter approving the extension of time on March 10, 2026. To account for the additional time needed for White Pine to complete the study and file the study report, the application will be processed according to the following revised schedule.

Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis: April 2027.

Draft NEPA Document: January 2028.

Final NEPA Document: July 21, 2028.

The project is covered under Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST–41). Under FAST–41, agencies are to publish completion dates for all federal environmental reviews and authorizations. This notice identifies the Commission's anticipated schedule for issuance of the final order for the project, which is based on the revised issuance date for the final NEPA document. We currently anticipate issuing the final order for the project no later than:

Issuance of Final Order—October 19, 2028

If a schedule change becomes necessary, additional notice will be provided so that interested parties and government agencies are kept informed of the project's progress.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05057 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings

Take notice that the Commission has received the following Natural Gas Pipeline Rate and Refund Report filings:

Filings Instituting Proceedings

Docket Numbers: RP26–630–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: 3.10.26 Negotiated Rates—Citadel Energy Marketing LLC R–7705–36 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5106.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–631–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: 3.10.26 Negotiated Rates—Citadel Energy Marketing LLC R–7705–37 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5107.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–632–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: 3.10.26 Negotiated Rates—United Energy Trading, LLC R–5095–29 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5109.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–633–000.

Applicants: High Island Offshore System, L.L.C.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: Storm Damage Surcharge 2026 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5112.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–635–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: 3.11.26 Negotiated Rates—Trafigura Trading LLC R–8150–02 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5035.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–636–000.

Applicants: Equitrans, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: Name Change of HG Energy to Antero to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5038.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–637–000.

Applicants: Southeast Supply Header, LLC.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: Negotiated Rate—Koch Energy 840306 to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5042.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–638–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: 3.11.26 Negotiated Rates—NRG Business Marketing LLC R–7465–12 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5044.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–639–000.

Applicants: Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: 3.11.26 Negotiated Rates—Sequent Energy Management LLC R–3075–24 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5045.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: RP26–640–000.

Applicants: Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America LLC.

Description: 4(d) Rate Filing: Negotiated Rate Agreements Filing—NICOR Gas April 1, 2026 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5055.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Any person desiring to intervene, to protest, or to answer a complaint in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (*https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp*) by querying the docket number.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf.* For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05056 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL26–45–000]

ISO New England Inc.; Notice of Institution of Section 206 Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

On March 10, 2026, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. EL26–45–000 pursuant to section 206 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 824e, instituting an investigation to determine whether ISO New England Inc.'s (ISO–NE) Transmission, Markets and Services Tariff may be unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory or preferential, or otherwise unlawful because it lacks provisions that would enable ISO–NE to correct improper or erroneous payments or charges to market participants in ISO–NE's markets. *ISO New England Inc.,* 194 FERC ¶ 61,187 (2026).

The refund effective date in Docket No. EL26–45–000, established pursuant to section 206(b) of the FPA, will be the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Any interested person desiring to be heard in Docket No. EL26–45–000 must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in accordance with Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.214 (2025), within 21 days of the date of issuance of the order.

In addition to publishing the full text of this document in the **Federal Register**, the Commission provides all interested persons an opportunity to view and/or print the contents of this document via the internet through the Commission's Home Page (*http://www.ferc.gov*) using the ''eLibrary'' link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. From FERC's Home Page on the internet, this information is available on eLibrary. The full text of this document is available on eLibrary in PDF and Microsoft Word format for viewing, printing, and/or downloading. To access this document in eLibrary, type the docket number excluding the last three digits of this document in the docket number field. User assistance is available for eLibrary and the FERC's website during normal business hours from FERC Online Support at 202–502–6652 (toll free at 1–866–208–3676) or email at *ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov,* or the Public Reference Room at 202–502–8371, TTY 202–502–8659. Email the Public Reference Room at *public.referenceroom@ferc.gov.*

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filings of comments, protests and interventions in lieu of paper using the ''eFile'' link at *http://www.ferc.gov.* In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at 202–502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05071 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric corporate filings:

Docket Numbers: EC26–70–000.

Applicants: Titan Solar Energy, LLC, Titan Solar, LLC.

Description: Joint Application for Authorization Under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act of Titan Solar Energy, LLC, et al.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5127.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Take notice that the Commission received the following Complaints and Compliance filings in EL Dockets:

Docket Numbers: EL26–49–000.

Applicants: Center for Security Policy et al. v. North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

Description: Formal Complaint of Center for Security Policy et al. v. North American Electric Reliability Corporation.

Filed Date: 3/9/26.

Accession Number: 20260309–5319.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/30/26.

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

Docket Numbers: ER10–1790–023; ER21–1716–005; ER14–2672–024; ER12–1825–037; ER22–2519–003; ER13–33–008; ER23–1470–001; ER23–1476–001; ER10–2468–005; ER10–2597–007; ER10–2481–007; ER11–2041–018; ER10–3196–005; ER10–2273–005; ER11–2042–018.

Applicants: Seneca Energy, II LLC, PEI Power II, LLC, PEI Power Corporation, Innovative Energy Systems, LLC, Ingenco Wholesale Power, L.L.C., Fowler Ridge III Wind Farm LLC, Fowler Ridge Wind Farm LLC, Cottontail Solar 8, LLC, Cottontail Solar 2, LLC, Collegiate Clean Energy, LLC, Bellflower Solar 1, LLC,EDF Industrial Power Services (CA), LLC, EDF Energy Services, LLC, BP Energy Retail LLC, BP Energy Company.

Description: Response to 02/09/2026, Deficiency Letter of BP Energy Company et al.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5114.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER22–2519–003; ER23–1470–001; ER23–1476–001.

Applicants: Cottontail Solar 8, LLC, Cottontail Solar 2, LLC, Bellflower Solar 1, LLC.

Description: Response to 02/09/2026, Deficiency Letter of Bellflower Solar 1, LLC et al.

Filed Date: 3/9/26.

Accession Number: 20260309–5321.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/30/26.

Docket Numbers: ER24–560–003; ER24–1591–002.

Applicants: Flatland Storage LLC, Carpenter Wind Farm LLC.

Description: Notice of Non-Material Change in Status of Carpenter Wind Farm LLC, et al.

Filed Date: 2/2/26.

Accession Number: 20260202–5275.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER25–209–000; ER26–658–000.

Applicants: Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Description: Joint Motion of Pacific Gas and Electric Company et al. for Waiver and to Extend Time to Submit Rate Year 2027 Update and Rate Year 2026 Protests and Answers to Protests and Request for Expedited Consideration.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5168.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/20/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–37–002.

Applicants: Nighthawk Energy Storage, LLC.

Description: Notice of Non-Material Change in Status of Nighthawk Energy Storage, LLC.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5201.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1010–001.

Applicants: Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

Description: Tariff Amendment: Amended Filing—Revisions to Allow Netting of Flows in the LTCR Allocation to be effective 12/31/9998.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5096.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1141–001.

Applicants: Deseret Generation & Transmission Co-operative, Inc.

Description: Tariff Amendment: Amendment to January 27 Filing to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5125.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/23/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1697–000.

Applicants: Wisconsin Public Service Corporation.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: PBOP Changes in its W–1A Tariff and Rate Schedule No. 87 to be effective 4/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5166.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1698–000.

Applicants: Ashwood Solar I, LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Seller Category Update to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5179.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1699–000.

Applicants: CED Timberland Solar, LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Seller Category Update to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5183.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1700–000.

Applicants: Hickory Park Solar, LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Seller Category Update to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5185.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1701–000.

Applicants: WR Graceland Solar, LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Update to include docket number in which MBR is authorized to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5187.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1702–000.

Applicants: RWE Clean Energy QSE, LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Category Seller Update to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5189.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1703–000.

Applicants: RWE Supply & Trading Americas, LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Seller Category Update to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5190.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1704–000.

Applicants: RWE Clean Energy Solutions, Inc.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Seller Category Update to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5192.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1705–000.

Applicants: RWE Clean Energy Wholesale Services, Inc.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Seller Category Update to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5193.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1706–000.

Applicants: RWE Trading Americas Inc.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Seller Category Update to be effective 3/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/10/26.

Accession Number: 20260310–5198.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/31/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1707–000.

Applicants: Sierra Pacific Power Company, Nevada Power Company.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Nevada Power Company submits tariff filing per 35.13(a)(2)(iii: Clarifying Amednments to OATT to be effective 5/1/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5051.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1711–000.

Applicants: Fowler Ridge III Wind Farm LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing to be effective 5/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5076.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1712–000.

Applicants: Ingenco Wholesale Power, L.L.C.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing to be effective 5/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5077.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1713–000.

Applicants: PEI Power LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing to be effective 5/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5080.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1714–000.

Applicants: PEI Power II, LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing to be effective 5/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5082.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1715–000.

Applicants: Seneca Energy, II LLC.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Revised Market-Based Rate Tariff Filing to be effective 5/11/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5083.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1716–000.

Applicants: PacifiCorp.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Surplus LGIA (Escalante II—SA 1107) to be effective 3/12/2026.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5106.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–1720–000.

Applicants: Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, New York Independent System Operator, Inc.

Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: New York Independent System Operator, Inc. submits tariff filing per 35.13(a)(2)(iii: Central Hudson 205: WDS Rate Schedule 21 Revisions to be effective 7/1/2025.

Filed Date: 3/11/26.

Accession Number: 20260311–5138.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 4/1/26.

Docket Numbers: PH26–11–000.

Applicants: Castleton Commodities International LLC, Holding Company Notification.

Description: Castleton Commodities International LLC submits FERC 65–B Notice of Change in Fact to Waiver Notification et al.

Filed Date: 3/6/26.

Accession Number: 20260306–5272.

Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 3/27/26.

The filings are accessible in the Commission's eLibrary system (*https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/fercgensearch.asp*) by querying the docket number.

Any person desiring to intervene, to protest, or to answer a complaint in any of the above proceedings must file in accordance with Rules 211, 214, or 206 of the Commission's Regulations (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214, or 385.206) on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on the specified comment date. Protests may be considered, but intervention is necessary to become a party to the proceeding.

eFiling is encouraged. More detailed information relating to filing requirements, interventions, protests, service, and qualifying facilities filings can be found at: *http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling/filing-req.pdf.* For other information, call (866) 208–3676 (toll free). For TTY, call (202) 502–8659.

For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, contact the Office of Public Participation at (202) 502–6595 or *OPP@ferc.gov.*

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05058 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

TIME AND DATE: 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

PLACE: Federal Reserve Board, Martin Building, C Street entrance between 20th and 21st Streets NW, Washington, DC 20551.

STATUS: Open.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Discussion Agenda

Proposals to revise the requirements under the capital rule for the largest, most internationally active banking organizations and the requirements for other banking organizations subject to the capital rule, as well as to make adjustments to the surcharge for U.S. global systematically important banking organizations.

Notes: 1. For those attending in person, the staff memo will be available to attendees on the day of the meeting in paper. Meeting documentation will be available on the Board's website about 20 minutes before the start of the meeting.

2. This meeting will be recorded for the benefit of those unable to attend. The webcast recording and a transcript of the meeting will be available after the meeting on the Board's website at *http://www.federalreserve.gov/aboutthefed/boardmeetings/.*

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Public Affairs Office at *media@frb.gov.*

On the day of the meeting, you will be able to view the meeting via webcast from a link available on the Board's website. You do not need to register to view the webcast of the meeting. A link to the meeting documentation will also be available approximately 20 minutes before the start of the meeting. Both links may be accessed from the Board's website at *www.federalreserve.gov.*

If you plan to attend the open meeting in person, we ask that you notify us in advance and provide your name, date of birth, and social security number (SSN) or passport number. You may provide this information by calling 202–452–2474 or you may register online at *www.federalreserve.gov.* You may pre-register until 4:00 p.m. on March 17, 2026. You also will be asked to provide identifying information, including a photo REAL ID, before being admitted to the Board meeting. The Public Affairs Office must approve the use of cameras; please email *media@frb.gov* for further information. If you need an accommodation for a disability, please call Yvette McKnight, 202–452–2308. For the hearing impaired or users of TTY–TRS, please call 711 from any telephone, anywhere in the United States.

Privacy Act Notice: The information you provide will be used to assist us in prescreening you to ensure the security of the Board's premises and personnel. In order to do this, we may disclose your information consistent with the routine uses listed in the Privacy Act Notice for BGFRS–32, including to appropriate federal, state, local, or foreign agencies where disclosure is reasonably necessary to determine whether you pose a security risk or where the security or confidentiality of your information has been compromised. We are authorized to collect your information by 12 U.S.C. 243 and 248, and Executive Order 9397. In accordance with Executive Order 9397, we collect your SSN so that we can keep accurate records, because other people may have the same name and birth date. In addition, we use your SSN when we make requests for information about you from law enforcement and other regulatory agency databases.

Furnishing the information requested is voluntary; however, your failure to provide any of the information requested may result in disapproval of

your request for access to the Board's premises. You may be subject to a fine or imprisonment under 18 U.S.C. 1001 for any false statements you make in your request to enter the Board's premises.

You may access the Board's website at *www.federalreserve.gov* for an electronic announcement. (The website also includes procedural and other information about the open meeting.)

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Benjamin W. McDonough,

Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2026–05112 Filed 3–12–26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission to OMB for Review and Approval; Public Comment Request; Health Workforce Connector, OMB No. 0906–0031 Revision

AGENCY: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, HRSA submitted an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. Comments submitted during the first public review of this ICR will be provided to OMB. OMB will accept further comments from the public during the review and approval period. OMB may act on HRSA's ICR only after the 30-day comment period for this notice has closed.

DATES: Comments on this ICR should be received no later than April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the clearance requests submitted to OMB for review, email Samantha Miller, the HRSA Information Collection Clearance Officer, at *paperwork@hrsa.gov* or call (301) 443–3983.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Information Collection Request Title:* Bureau of Health Workforce Health Workforce Connector OMB No. 0906–0031—Revision.

Abstract: The Health Workforce Connector's (HWC) goal is to help connect skilled professionals to communities in need by allowing approved site points of contact (POCs) at National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Nurse Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs (Nurse Corps), Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Loan Repayment Program, Pediatric Specialty (PS) Loan Repayment Program, Nursing Training, and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) sites to post available opportunities and update site profiles. The HWC provides a central platform to connect participants, including but not limited to those in the NHSC, Nurse Corps, STAR, PS, Nursing Training, and THCGME programs with facilities that are approved for their programs. The HWC is a resource connecting any health care professional or student interested in providing primary care services in underserved communities with facilities in need of health care providers. The HWC also allows users to create a profile, search for approved sites, find job and training opportunities, and connect with other clinicians who are similarly interested in working with underserved populations. The HWC is searchable by site POCs. Individuals can use the HWC's search capability with Google Maps.

A 60-day notice published in the **Federal Register** on December 31, 2025, vol. 90, No. 247; pp. 61402–03. There were no public comments.

Need and Proposed Use of the Information: Information will be collected from users in two ways:

(1) *Account Creation:* For job seekers, creating an account is optional. To create an account the user must enter their first name, last name, and email address. Those mandatory fields will be used to send an automated email allowing the user to validate their login credentials. In addition, for job seekers participating in the programs listed above, their HWC account will be linked to their existing program file in the Bureau of Health Workforce Management Information Systems Solution database and allow an initial import of existing data at the request of the user.

(2) *Profile Completion:* Users may fill out a profile, but this function will be optional and includes fields such as location, discipline, specialty, and languages spoken. The information collected, if published by the user, can be searched by approved site POCs seeking potential candidates for health care job opportunities at their site. Job seekers also can set their security and privacy settings on their accounts to make their profiles searchable by other end users or private at any time. In addition, all information collected through the HWC will be stored within existing secure Bureau of Health Workforce Management Information Systems Solution databases and will be used internally for report generation on an as-needed basis.

HRSA is requesting a revision and is seeking to use the previously approved forms. The revisions are because of an increase in the estimated annual burden due to an increase in web page traffic, leading to an increase in the number of accounts created.

Likely Respondents: Potential users include individuals searching for a health care job opportunity at a NHSC, Nurse Corps, STAR, PS, Nursing Training, or THCGME approved health care facility and health care facility POCs searching for potential candidates to fill open health care job opportunities at their sites.

Burden Statement: Burden in this context means the time expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, or provide the information requested. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information; to search data sources; to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information. The total annual burden hours estimated for this ICR are summarized in the table below.

Total Estimated Annualized Burden Hours:

Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Total responses	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden hours
Account Creation	5,330	1	5,330	0.08	426.40
Complete Profile	5,014	1	5,014	1.00	5,014.00
Total	[1] 5,330		5,330		5,440.40

[1] The 5,014 respondents who complete their profiles are a subset of the 5,330 respondents who create accounts.

Maria G. Button,

Director, Executive Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 2026–05104 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4165–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council.

This will be a hybrid meeting held in-person and virtually and will be open to the public as indicated below. Individuals who plan to attend in-person or view the virtual meeting and need special assistance or other reasonable accommodations, should notify the Contact Person listed below in advance of the meeting. The meeting can be accessed from the NIH Videocast at the following link: *https://videocast.nih.gov/.*

Name of Committee: Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council.

Date: April 13, 2026.

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Agenda: The 71st OARAC meeting will include a report from the Office of AIDS Research Director, and discussions with council members, guests, and NIH officials regarding NIH HIV research.

Address: National Institutes of Health, 5601 Fishers Lane, Garden Room 1, Rockville, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Hybrid.

Contact Person: Ms. Melissa Herrera, Office of AIDS Research, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, 5601 Fishers Lane, Room 2F18, Rockville, MD 20892, (301) 496–0357, *OARACinfo@nih.gov.*

Registration is not required to attend this meeting.

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

Information is also available on the Institute's/Center's home page: *www.oar.nih.gov,* where an agenda and any additional information for the meeting will be posted when available.

In the interest of security, NIH has procedures at *https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/visitor-information/campus-access-security* for entrance into on-campus and off-campus facilities. All visitor vehicles, including taxicabs, hotel, and airport shuttles will be inspected before being allowed on campus. Visitors attending a meeting on campus or at an off-campus federal facility will be asked to show one form of identification (for example, a government-issued photo ID, driver's license, or passport) and to state the purpose of their visit.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.14, Intramural Research Training Award; 93.22, Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds; 93.232, Loan Repayment Program for Research Generally; 93.39, Academic Research Enhancement Award; 93.936, NIH Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome Research Loan Repayment Program; 93.187, Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Bruce A. George,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–05068 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center For Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Oncology 2—Translational Clinical Integrated Review Group; Molecular Cancer Diagnosis and Classification Study Section.

Date: April 15, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Victor A. Panchenko, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 802B2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 480–6827, *victor.panchenko@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; PAR Panel: International and Cooperative Projects for Global Emerging Leaders Award.

Date: April 15–16, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Shareen Iqbal, Ph.D., MPH, Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496–6937, *shareen.iqbal@nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Aging and Neurodegeneration Integrated Review Group; Aging Systems and Geriatrics Study Section.

Date: April 15–16, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Roger Alan Bannister, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 1010–D, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435–1042, *bannisterra@csr.nih.gov.*

Name of Committee: Surgical Sciences, Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering Integrated Review Group; Surgery, Anesthesiology and Trauma Study Section.

Date: April 15–16, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Stephen Anthony Gallo, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (240) 669–2858, *steve.gallo@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; PAR Panel: Tackling Acquisition of Language in Kids (TALK).
Date: April 15, 2026.
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Natalie S. Dailey, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 827–4451, *daileyns@csr.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review, Special Emphasis Panel; Special Topics in Biodata Management and Computational Modeling.
Date: April 15, 2026.
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Christopher Ryan Mahone, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Dr., Room 710F, Bethesda, MD 20892, (443) 224–3992, *mahonecr@csr.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review, Special Emphasis Panel; Motivated Behavior, Alcohol, and Neurotoxicology.
Date: April 15, 2026.
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Mamatha Garige, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 443–9737, *mamatha.garige@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Social and Ethical Issues in Research.
Date: April 15, 2026.
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Rochelle Francine Hentges, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 1000C, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 402–8720, *hentgesrf@mail.nih.gov*.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Denise M. Santeufemio,

Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–05106 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center For Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Bioanalytical, Molecular, Cellular Sciences and Technologies.
Date: April 13–14, 2026.
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Michael James Knapp, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 402–0600, *mike.knapp@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Special: U54 Rare Diseases.
Date: April 13, 2026.
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Nawazish Ali Naqvi, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 827–7911, *nawazish.naqvi@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Career Development Training.
Date: April 14, 2026.
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Tushar Baran Deb, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institute of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (240) 276–6132, *tushar.deb@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Social and Community Influences on Health Integrated Review Group; Community Influences on Health Behavior Study Section.
Date: April 14, 2026.
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Maria De Jesus Diaz Perez, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 1000G, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496–4227, *diazperezm2@csr.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; PAR Panel: Regenerative Medicine Innovation Projects (RMIP) (U01/UH3).
Date: April 14, 2026.
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Amber Taylor Collins, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 827–5245, *amber.collins@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Endocrinology, Metabolism, Nutrition and Reproductive Sciences Integrated Review Group; Cellular, Molecular and Integrative Reproduction Study Section.
Date: April 14, 2026.
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Leslie Mccue Turner, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 480–4962, *leslie.turner@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Fellowships: Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy I.
Date: April 14, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Ola Mae Zack Howard, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4192, MSC 7806, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–451–4467, *howardz@mail.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Research Career Development Awards.
Date: April 14, 2026.
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Marta Veronica Hamity, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institute of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 451–1664, *marta.hamity@nih.gov*.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 11, 2026,

Rosalind M. Niamke,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–04989 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Office of the Secretary; Cancellation of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the cancellation of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, March 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m. to March 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m., National Institutes of Health, Neuroscience Center, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20852 which was published in the **Federal Register** on February 24, 2026, 91 FR Doc. 2026–03684 FR 8896.

The March 19th meeting has been cancelled. A new **Federal Register** notice will be published when the new meeting date is set.

Dated: March 10, 2026.

Rosalind M. Niamke,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–04988 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 1009 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Bioengineering Sciences & Technologies Integrated Review Group; Modeling and Analysis of Biological Systems Study Section.
Date: April 14, 2026.
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Zarana Patel, Ph.D., MPH, Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (301) 496–9295, *zarana.patel@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; P Series: Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory (P30 Clinical Trial Optional).
Date: April 14, 2026.
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Cristina Backman, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5211, MSC 7846, Bethesda, MD 20892 (301) 480–9069, *cbackman@mail.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; P Series: Resource Grants in Biotechnology, National Centers for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NCBIB) (P41 Clinical Trials Option).
Date: April 14, 2026.
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Shilpakala Ketha, Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 761–6821, *shilpa.ketha@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Risk, Prevention and Health Behavior Integrated Review Group; Clinical Management in General Care Settings Study Section.
Date: April 14–15, 2026.
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Jessica Campbell Chambers, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 496–5693, *jessica.chambers@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences Integrated Review Group; Pulmonary Injury, Repair, and Remodeling Study Section (PIRR).
Date: April 15, 2026.
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Ghenima Dirami, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 804 G, Bethesda, MD 20892, (240) 498–7546, *diramig@csr.nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; PAR Panel: Catalyze Research on Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep (HLBS) Diseases and Disorder.
Date: April 15, 2026.
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Dylan P Flather, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institute of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (406) 802–6209, *dylan.flather@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Mentored, Career Transition, and Mid-Career K Awards.
Date: April 15, 2026.
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.
Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.
Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.
Contact Person: Yasuko Furumoto, Ph.D., Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institute of

Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 827–7835, *yasuko.furumoto@nih.gov*.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Member Conflict: Skeletal Muscle and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Date: April 15, 2026.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Address: National Institutes of Health, Rockledge II, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Meeting Format: Virtual Meeting.

Contact Person: Erick Omar Hernandez Ochoa, Ph.D., MD, Scientific Review Officer, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 480–5672, *erick.hernandezochoa@nih.gov*.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.306, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393–93.396, 93.837–93.844, 93.846–93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Bruce A. George,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 2026–05070 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–7094–N–08; OMB Control No. 2506–0217]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Economic Development Initiative Community Project Funding Grants

AGENCY: Office of Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD is requesting comments from all interested parties on the proposed collection of information. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* May 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection can be sent within 60 days of publication of this notice to *www.regulations.gov.* Interested persons are also invited to submit comments regarding this proposal and comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Urnell Johnson PRA Supervisor Correspondence Unit, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 7232, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hiwot T. Gebremariam, Director of Economic Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; email Hiwot T. Gebremariam at *Hiwot.t.Gebremariam@hud.gov,* telephone 202–341–4536. This is not a toll-free number. HUD welcomes and is prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit *https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs.*

Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Hiwot Gebremariam.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the information collection described in Section A.

A. Overview of Information Collection

Title of Information Collection: Economic Development Initiative Community Project Funding Grants.

OMB Approval Number: 2506–0217.

Type of Request: Revision of currently approved collection.

Form Number: SF–424, SF424B, SF424D, SF–LLL, HUD–2880, SF–1199A, SF–425, SF–428, SF–428C, SF–429, SF–429A, SF–429B, SF–429C, HUD 424CBW, Grant Reporting (DRGR).

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: Receive grant application and performance reports from Economic Development Initiative Community Project Funding Grants recipients.

Respondents: Economic Development Initiative Community Project Funding Grants Recipients.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,500.

Estimated Number of Responses: 5,000.

Frequency of Response: 2.

Average Hours per Response: 3.

Total Estimated Burdens: 15,000.

Information collection	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Responses per annum	Burden hour per response	Annual burden hours	Hourly cost per response	Annual cost
Application for Federal Assistance (SF–424)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF–424B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assurances for Construction Programs (SF–424D)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF–LLL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disclosure/Update Report (Form HUD–2880)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Direct Deposit Sign-Up (SF–1199A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Financial Report (SF–425)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tangible Personal Property Report (SF 428)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tangible Personal Property Report (The Final/Award Closeout form on Acquired Equipment (SF 428 B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tangible Personal Property Report (Disposition Request) (SF 428 C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Property Status Report (SF–429)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Property Status Report—(General Reporting) (SF–429 A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Property Status Report—(Request to Acquire, Improve, or Furnish) (SF–429 B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Property Status Report—(Disposition or Encumbrance Request) (SF–429 C)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Application narrative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detailed Budget Worksheet, (HUD) 424 CBW	0	0	0	0	o	0	0
Grant Reporting (DRGR)	2,500	2	5,000	3	15,000	$32.73	$490,950
Total	2,500	2	5,000	3	15,000	32.73	490,950

B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

C. Authority

Section 2 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507.

Ronald J. Kurtz,

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

[FR Doc. 2026–05030 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–7107–N 05; OMB Control No.: 2501–0011]

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Maintenance Wage Rate Recommendation

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: HUD is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD is requesting comments from all interested parties on the proposed collection of information. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 30 days of public comment.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anna Guido, PRA Compliance Officer, Paperwork Reduction Act Division, PRAD, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 8210, Washington, DC 20410; email at *PaperworkReductionActOffice@hud.gov,* ATTN: Anna Guido, telephone (202) 402–5535. This is not a toll-free number. HUD welcomes and is prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit *https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs.*

Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Guido.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the information collection described in Section A. The **Federal Register** notice that solicited public comment on the information collection for a period of 60 days was published on March 26, 2025 at 90 FR 13774.

A. Overview of Information Collection

Title of Information Collection: Maintenance Wage Rate Recommendation.

OMB Approval Number: 2501–0011.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection.

Form Number: HUD–4750, HUD–4751, HUD–4752.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Davis-Bacon and Labor Standards (DBLS) is responsible for the administration and enforcement of prevailing maintenance wage rate requirements in low-income and affordable housing operations. Employers must pay HUD-determined or adopted prevailing maintenance wage rates (MWDs) to maintenance laborers and mechanics that they employ in the operation of certain Public, Tribal, and Hawaiian Home Lands public housing projects, as follows:

a. Low-income housing operated by Public Housing Agencies (PHA) as defined by the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (USHA) as amended, pursuant to Section 12(a).

b. Affordable housing operated by Indian tribes and/or Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE) as defined by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) as amended, pursuant to Section 104(b).

c. Affordable housing operated by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) as defined by NAHASDA as amended, pursuant to Section 805(b).

HUD uses information collected from forms 4750–4752 to determine or adopt prevailing wage rates for maintenance laborers and mechanics employed on low income and affordable housing projects subject to Federal labor standards provisions.

Information collection	Number of respondents	Frequency of response	Responses per annum	Burden hours per response	Annual burden hours	Hourly cost per response	Total cost
HUD–4750 Maintenance Wage Recommendation	1,381.00	1.00	1,381.00	2.00	2,762.00	$49.50	$136,719.00
HUD–4751 Maintenance Wage Rate Survey	1,133.00	1.00	1,133.00	2.00	2,266.00	49.50	112,167.00
HUD–4752 Maintenance Wage Rate Survey—Summary Sheet	1,133.00	1.00	1,133.00	4.00	4,532.00	49.50	224,334.00
Total	3,647.00		3,647.00	8.00	9,560.00	49.50	473,220.00

B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

C. Authority

Section 2 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507.

Anna Guido,

Department PRA Compliance Officer, Office of Policy Development and Research, Chief Data Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–05102 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407–014–004–065516, O2509–014–004–125222]

Proposed Reinstatement of Terminated Oil and Gas Lease in Weld County, CO

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of lease reinstatement.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (MLA), Incline Energy, LLC, timely filed with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) a petition for reinstatement of competitive oil and gas lease, Incline Energy, LLC—COCO105671521 (COC79880) located in Weld County, Colorado. The lessee paid the required rentals that accrued from the date of termination. The BLM has not issued new leases that affect these lands prior to receiving the petition. The BLM proposes to reinstate the lease.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Curtis, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, Fluid Minerals Adjudication, Bureau of Land Management Colorado State Office, P.O. Box 151029, DFC—Bldg., 40, Lakewood, CO 80215, telephone: (303) 239–3600, email: *BLM_CO_LeaseSale@blm.gov.* Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM proposes to reinstate the lease because it meets the requirements of the MLA and BLM regulations and is in conformance with the Environmental Assessment (EA), DOI–BLM–CO–F020–2026–0003–EA, signed November 6, 2025. The EA is based on the Royal Gorge Field Office Record of Decision and Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan for Oil and Gas signed January 9, 2024, and Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for Big Game Habitat Conservation for Oil and Gas Management in Colorado signed on October 17, 2024. The lessee agreed to the new lease terms for rentals and royalties of $20 per acre, or fraction thereof, per year, and 20 percent respectively. The lessee paid the required $500 administrative fee for the lease reinstatement and the $133 cost of publishing this notice. The lessee met the requirements for reinstatement of the leases per sec. 31(d) and (e) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 188). Additionally, in accordance with the requirements of IM 2018–010, the BLM Field Office associated with this lease has reviewed conformance with the existing Resource Management Plan and supported its decision to reinstate, through a Determination of National Environmental Policy Act Adequacy.

The BLM proposes to reinstate the lease referenced below, effective with its respective termination date, under the original terms and conditions of the lease and the increased rental and royalty rates cited above.

Lease No.	Lessee	Termination date	County	Acres
COCO105671521 (COC79880)	Incline Energy, LLC	12/1/2021	Weld	9.7

(Authority: 30 U.S.C. 188(e)(4) and 43 CFR 3108.23)

Kemba Anderson,

Fluid Minerals Branch Chief.

[FR Doc. 2026–04993 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407–014–004–065516, #O2509–014–004–125222; AKAK106538743]

Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest for Lands Underlying Portions of the Eek River, Middle Fork of the Eek River, and Ugaklik River in Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: On January 4, 2018, the State of Alaska (State) finalized an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a recordable disclaimer of interest (RDI) from the United States for the submerged lands underlying portions of the Eek River, Middle Fork of the Eek River, and Ugaklik River, south of Bethel, Alaska. An RDI, if issued, would disclaim the United States' interest in the lands underlying the portions of the waterbodies in the RDI application. This notice informs the public of the pending RDI application and supporting evidence submitted by the State and requests additional information related to the waterbodies in the application.

DATES: All comments and any additional information should be received on or before April 15, 2026. The BLM will issue a decision on the application on or after June 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The State's RDI application and its attachments may be viewed at: *https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/RDI/kuskokwim,* under the section titled ''Eek River System (Eek River, Middle Fork Eek River, and Ugaklik River).'' Public comments may be mailed, emailed, or hand delivered. Mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, ATTN: Bettie Shelby, Acting Branch Chief, Lands and Realty (AK–941), 222 West 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513; email comments to *bshelby@blm.gov;* or hand deliver comments during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alaska Time) to the BLM Public Information Center, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bettie Shelby, Acting Branch Chief, Lands and Realty (AK–941), at 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513; 907–271–5596; *bshelby@blm.gov;* or visit the BLM's RDI website at *https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-*

and-realty/regional-information/alaska/RDI.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 4, 2018, the State filed a final application (AA–93604) for an RDI pursuant to section 315 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as amended (43 U.S.C. 1745), and the regulations in 43 CFR part 1860, subpart 1864, which authorize the BLM to issue an RDI. An RDI is a legal document through which the BLM would disclaim the United States' interest in or ownership of specified lands. This notice of application is to inform the public of the pending application and the State's supporting evidence, as well as to provide the opportunity to comment or provide additional information to the BLM.

The State's RDI application asserts that the waterbodies were navigable in fact on the date of Alaska Statehood, January 3, 1959. As such, the application contends that ownership of the lands underlying portions of the Eek River, Middle Fork of the Eek River, and Ugaklik River automatically passed from the United States to the State on the date of Statehood under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Submerged Lands Act of 1988, the Alaska Right of Way Act of 1898, the Alaska Statehood Act, and other title navigability laws.

The RDI application includes the eligible submerged lands for the following land descriptions: (1) Eek River: All submerged lands between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the Eek River, from the confluence with Rainy Creek in sec. 1, T. 2 S., R. 64 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska, downstream to sec. 8, T. 1 N., R. 72 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska; (2) Middle Fork Eek River: All submerged lands between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the Middle Fork Eek River from sec. 18, T. 3 S., R. 68 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska, downstream to river mile 0.3 near the confluence with the Eek River in sec. 34, T. 1 N., R. 71 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska; and (3) Ugaklik River: All submerged lands between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the Ugaklik River from sec. 3, T. 3 S., R. 70 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska, downstream to the confluence with the Eek River in sec. 3, T. 1 S., R. 72 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska.

The BLM is seeking additional information related to the waterbodies in the State's RDI application. Examples of additional information are photographs or videos capturing boats being used on the waterbodies, historical or present-day use diaries, or specific verbal knowledge, whether passed down through the region, or present-day use, information on the type of boat or watercraft used, and information on the time of year boats are, or were, used. In addition to boat use, the BLM is seeking hydrological data and/or photographs that capture waterbody characteristics such as depth, width, obstructions or obstacles, or shallow stream sections.

In previous **Federal Register** notices regarding RDI applications, the BLM provided a 90-day public comment period. The BLM determined that 30 days is adequate and sufficient time under the circumstances to receive substantive and relevant public input as is permitted under 43 CFR 1864.2. Additionally, a 30-day public comment period provides the BLM with a minimum of 60 days to review comments received before making a decision on the application on or after 90 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Copies of the State's RDI application and comments provided in response to this notice will be available for public review at the BLM Alaska State Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alaska Time, Monday through Friday, excepting Federal holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personally identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C. 1745 and 43 CFR part 1860, subpart 1864)

Bettie Shelby,

Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Lands and Cadastral.

[FR Doc. 2026–04994 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407–014–004–065516, #O2509–014–004–125222]

Filing of Survey Plats: Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of official filing.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey of lands described in this notice are scheduled to be officially filed in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska State Office, Anchorage, Alaska. The surveys, which were executed at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and BLM, are necessary for the management of these lands.

DATES: The BLM must receive protests by April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may buy a copy of the plats from the BLM Alaska Public Information Center, 222 West 7th Avenue, Mailstop 13, Anchorage, AK 99513. Please use this address when filing written protests. You may also view the plats at the BLM Alaska Public Information Center, Fitzgerald Federal Building, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, at no cost.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nathan C. Erickson, Acting Chief, Branch of Cadastral Survey, Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99513; telephone 907–271–5770; email *n05erick@blm.gov.* Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The lands surveyed are:

Copper River Meridian, Alaska

U.S. Survey No. 6728, accepted November 5, 2025, situated in T. 1 S., R. 3 W.
U.S. Survey No. 14556, accepted November 5, 2025, situated in T. 19 S., R. 17 E.
U.S. Survey No. 14646, accepted November 5, 2025, situated in T. 18 S., R. 17 E.
U.S. Survey No. 14649, accepted November 5, 2025, situated in T. 20 S., R. 19 E.
T. 11 N., R. 6 E., accepted October 3, 2025.
T. 18 N., R. 15 E., accepted August 18, 2021.

Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska

T. 10 S., R. 4 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 11 S., R. 4 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 12 S., R. 4 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 13 S., R. 4 E., accepted November 6, 2025.

T. 8 S., R. 5 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 9 S., R. 5 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 10 S., R. 5 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 13 S., R. 5 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 8 S., R. 6 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 13 S., R. 6 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 9 S., R. 7 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 13 S., R. 7 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 14 S., R. 7 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 9 S., R. 8 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 10 S., R. 8 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 14 S., R. 8 E., accepted November 6, 2025.

Kateel River Meridian, Alaska

U.S. Survey No. 14655, accepted November 7, 2025, situated in T. 18 N., R. 10 W.

Seward Meridian, Alaska

U.S. Survey No. 4413, accepted May 24, 2023, situated in T. 17 N., R. 61 W.
U.S. Survey No. 4414, accepted February 14, 2024, situated in T. 17 N., R. 61 W.
U.S. Survey No. 14656, accepted November 5, 2025, situated in T. 12 S., R. 74 W.
U.S. Survey No. 14673, accepted November 12, 2025, situated in T. 15 S., R. 44 W.
U.S. Survey No. 14701, accepted November 12, 2025, situated in T. 15 S., R. 44 W.
U.S. Survey No. 14703, accepted November 12, 2025, situated in T. 15 S., R. 44 W.
U.S. Survey No. 14709, accepted November 7, 2025, situated in T. 15 S., R. 49 W.
T. 14 N., R. 2 E., accepted November 6, 2025.
T. 12 S., R. 72 W., accepted October 3, 2025.

A person or party who wishes to protest one or more plats of survey identified above must file a written notice of protest with the State Director for the BLM in Alaska. The protest may be filed by mailing to BLM State Director, Alaska State Office, Bureau of Land Management, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99513 or by delivering it in person to BLM Alaska Public Information Center, Fitzgerald Federal Building, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. The notice of protest must identify the plat(s) of survey that the person or party wishes to protest. You must file the notice of protest before the scheduled date of official filing for the plat(s) of survey being protested. The BLM will not consider any notice of protest filed after the scheduled date of official filing. A notice of protest is considered filed on the date it is received by the State Director for the BLM in Alaska during regular business hours; if received after regular business hours, a notice of protest will be considered filed the next business day. A written statement of reasons in support of a protest, if not filed with the notice of protest, must be filed with the State Director for the BLM in Alaska within 30 calendar days after the notice of protest is filed.

If a notice of protest against a plat of survey is received prior to the scheduled date of official filing, the official filing of the plat of survey identified in the notice of protest will be stayed pending consideration of the protest. A plat of survey will not be officially filed until the dismissal or resolution of all protests of the plat.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in a notice of protest or statement of reasons, you should be aware that the documents you submit, including your personally identifiable information, may be made publicly available in their entirety at any time. While you can ask the BLM to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C. Chap. 3)

John G. Hill,

Acting Chief Cadastral Surveyor, Alaska.

[FR Doc. 2026–05059 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407–014–004–065516, #O2509–014–004–125222;AKAK106403643]

Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest for Lands Underlying Portions of the Unuk River in Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: On September 8, 2025, the State of Alaska (State) finalized an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a recordable disclaimer of interest (RDI) from the United States for the submerged lands underlying portions of the Unuk River in southeast Alaska. An RDI, if issued, would disclaim the United States' interest in the lands underlying the portion of the waterbody in the RDI application. This notice informs the public of the pending RDI application and supporting evidence submitted by the State and requests additional information related to the waterbody in the application.

DATES: All comments and any additional information should be received on or before April 15, 2026. The BLM will issue a decision on the application on or after June 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The State's RDI application and its attachments may be viewed at: *https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/RDI/southeast,* under the section titled ''Unuk River.'' Public comments may be mailed, emailed, or hand delivered. Mail comments to: Bureau of Land Management, ATTN: Bettie Shelby, Acting Branch Chief, Lands and Realty (AK–941), 222 West 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513; email comments to *bshelby@blm.gov;* or hand deliver comments during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alaska Time) to the BLM Public Information Center, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bettie Shelby, Acting Branch Chief, Lands and Realty (AK–941), at 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513; 907–271–5596; *bshelby@blm.gov;* or visit the BLM's RDI website at *https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/RDI.* Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 8, 2025, the State finalized an application (AA–98715) for an RDI pursuant to section 315 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as amended (43 U.S.C. 1745), and the regulations in 43 CFR part 1860, subpart 1864, which authorize the BLM to issue an RDI. An RDI is a legal document through which the BLM would disclaim the United States' interest in or ownership of specified lands. This notice of application is to inform the public of the pending application and the State's supporting evidence, as well as to provide the opportunity to comment or provide additional information to the BLM.

The State's RDI application asserts that the waterbody was navigable in fact on the date of Alaska Statehood, January 3, 1959. As such, the application contends that ownership of the lands underlying portions of the Unuk River automatically passed from the United States to the State on the date of Statehood under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Submerged Lands Act of 1988, the Alaska Right of Way Act of 1898, the Alaska Statehood Act, and other title navigability laws.

The RDI application includes eligible submerged lands for the following land description: 1) Unuk River: All submerged lands between the ordinary high-water lines of the left and right banks of the Unuk River beginning at the westerly boundary of the Sixty-Foot

Boundary Reserve (Proclamation 810) at the Canadian Border, within secs. 4, 9, and 10, T. 64 S., R. 94 E., Copper River Meridian, Alaska (C.R.M.), to the limit of tidal influence with Burroughs Bay included at an unidentified location within T. 67 S., R. 92 E., C.R.M.; T. 67 S., R. 93 E., C.R.M.; T. 66 S., R. 93 E. C.R.M.; or T. 66 S., R. 94 E., C.R.M.

The BLM is seeking additional information related to the waterbody in the State's RDI application. Examples of additional information are photographs or videos capturing boats being used on the waterbodies, historical or present-day use diaries, or specific verbal knowledge, whether passed down through the region, or present-day use, information on the type of boat or watercraft used, and information on the time of year boats are, or were, used. In addition to boat use, the BLM is seeking hydrological data and/or photographs that capture waterbody characteristics such as depth, width, obstructions or obstacles, or shallow stream sections.

In previous **Federal Register** notices regarding RDI applications, the BLM provided a 90-day public comment period. The BLM determined that 30 days is adequate and sufficient time under the circumstances to receive substantive and relevant public input as is permitted under 43 CFR 1864.2. Additionally, a 30-day public comment period provides the BLM with a minimum of 60 days to review comments received before making a decision on the application on or after 90 days from the date of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Copies of the State's RDI application and comments provided in response to this notice will be available for public review at the BLM Alaska State Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alaska Time, Monday through Friday, excepting Federal holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personally identifiable information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C. 1745 and 43 CFR part 1860, subpart 1864)

Bettie Shelby,

Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Lands and Cadastral.

[FR Doc. 2026–04997 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407–014–004–065516; #02509–014–004–125222; LLOR957000]

Filing of Plats of Survey: Oregon/Washington

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of official filing.

SUMMARY: The plats of survey of the following described lands are scheduled to be officially filed in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon, 30 calendar days from the date of this publication. The surveys announced in this notice, which were executed at the request of the BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service, are necessary for the management of these lands.

DATES: Protests must be received by the BLM Oregon State Office prior to the scheduled date of official filing, April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: A copy of the plats may be obtained from the Public Room at the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204, upon required payment. The plats may be viewed at this location at no cost.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Femling, Chief Cadastral Surveyor of Oregon/Washington, telephone: (503) 808–6633, *email: rfemling@blm.gov, mail:* Branch of Geographic Sciences, Bureau of Land Management, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The plats of survey of the following described lands are scheduled to be officially filed in the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office, Portland, Oregon:

Willamette Meridian, Oregon

T. 39 S., R. 5 W., accepted September 9, 2025.
T. 39 S., R. 6 W., accepted September 9, 2025.
T. 32 S., R 5 W., accepted September 9, 2025.
T. 32 S., R. 4 W., accepted September 9, 2025.
T. 20 S., R. 5 W., accepted September 10, 2025.
T. 16 S., R. 22 E., accepted September 10, 2025.
T. 9 S., R. 13 E., accepted September 11, 2025.
T. 18 S., R. 6 W., accepted September 15, 2025.
T. 14 S., R. 7 W., accepted September 16, 2025.
T. 13 S., R. 7 W., accepted September 16, 2025.

Willamette Meridian, Washington

T. 6 N., R. 12 E., accepted September 16, 2025.

A person or party who wishes to protest one or more plats of survey named above must file a written notice of protest with the State Director for Oregon/Washington, Bureau of Land Management, at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

The notice of protest must name the specific plat(s) of survey that the person or party wishes to protest. The notice of protest must be received in the BLM Oregon State Office no later than the scheduled date of the proposed official filing plat(s) of survey being protested, see the **DATES** section earlier; if received after regular business hours, a notice of protest will be considered filed the next business day. Any notice of protest filed after the scheduled date of official filing will be untimely and will not be considered.

A written statement of reasons in support of the protest, if not filed with the notice of protest, must be filed with the BLM State Director for Oregon/Washington within 30 days after the notice of protest is received.

If a notice of protest against a plat of survey is received prior to the scheduled date of official filing, the official filing of the plat of survey named in the notice of protest will be stayed pending consideration of the protest. A plat of survey will not be officially filed until the next business day after all timely protests have been dismissed or otherwise resolved.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in a notice of protest, you should be aware that the documents you submit, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available in their entirety at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C., Chapter 3)

Robert Femling,

Chief Cadastral Surveyor of Oregon/Washington.

[FR Doc. 2026–05063 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331–24–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6982; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042303; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Cristin Lucas, Repatriation Coordinator, Arizona State Museum, 1013 East University Boulevard, Tucson, AZ 85721–0026, telephone (520) 626–0320, email *lucasc@arizona.edu.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of 15 cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 15 unassociated funerary objects are ceramic pitchers and ceramic bowls. In March 1937, Byron Cummings, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Arizona and Director of the Arizona State Museum (ASM), excavated a site in the vicinity of Brooklyn Mine and Cordes, Yavapai County, Arizona. Cummings made no formal recording of the site, which he referred to as Brookline Ruin (also designated in collections as AZ O:13:—), but catalog cards indicate the items were removed from funerary features. The cultural items are identified as Hohokam. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

A total of two cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are a ceramic jar-bowl and a ceramic bowl. In September 1929, John Hughes and George Dennis excavated AZ O:15:61(ASM) for the Gila Pueblo Archaeological Foundation (Gila Pueblo). The site, located at Hickcox 71 Ranch in Round Valley, Gila County, Arizona, was described as a habitation area featuring a pueblo of at least 50 rooms. In October 1929, Gila Pueblo purchased the collection of cultural items removed from AZ O:15:61(ASM). These collections represent Hohokam and Sinagua archaeological traditions. On December 16, 1950, all collections previously held by Gila Pueblo that had not yet been dispositioned, including cultural items from this site, were donated to the Arizona State Museum upon the Foundation's closure. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

A total of 35 cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 35 unassociated funerary objects are a ceramic canteen, ceramic bowls, ceramic jars, ceramic mugs, ceramic pitchers, shell rings, shell bracelets, an awl, pendants, a needle, and a projectile point. Prior to October 1929, John Hughes and George Dennis excavated AZ O:15:62(ASM) for the Gila Pueblo Archaeological Foundation (Gila Pueblo). The site was located at Booth Ranch, west of Tonto Creek and south of the Gisela schoolhouse in Gila County, Arizona. AZ O:15:62(ASM) is described in records as a Salado habitation site featuring a 100-room compound pueblo. In October 1929, Gila Pueblo purchased the collections removed from AZ O:15:62(ASM) by Hughes and Dennis. On December 16, 1950, all collections previously held by Gila Pueblo that had not yet been dispositioned, including cultural items from this site, were donated to the Arizona State Museum upon the Foundation's closure. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

A total of 37 cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 37 unassociated funerary objects are ceramic bowls, ceramic jars, ceramic pitchers, unworked shell, shell bracelets, a stone drill, a stone projectile point, and a stone bead. On October 12, 1929, John Hughes and George Dennis excavated AZ O:15:63(ASM). The site location is recorded as Armer Ranch, south of the Gisela schoolhouse and west of Tonto Creek in Gila County, Arizona. AZ O:15:63(ASM) was described as a Hohokam and Salado habitation area featuring a 50-room pueblo and a possible compound wall. In October 1929, Gila Pueblo purchased the collections removed from AZ O:15:63(ASM) by Hughes and Dennis. On December 16, 1950, all collections previously held by Gila Pueblo that had not yet been dispositioned, including cultural items from this site, were donated to the Arizona State Museum upon the Foundation's closure. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is a shell bracelet. On a date prior to November 17, 1967, a site (designated in collections as AZ U:8:—[ASM] Blades) was encountered in Gila or Maricopa County, Arizona, by a private citizen. The site was described as a Hohokam or Salado cliff dwelling in the Tonto National Forest area. On November 17, 1967, the private citizen donated the collected cultural item to the Arizona State Museum. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the item in this collection.

A total of two cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are turquoise pendants. Prior to February 1927, Lyndon Hargrave excavated a site (designated in collections as AZ U:8:—[ASM] Roosevelt Lake District) in the Roosevelt Lake district of Gila or Maricopa County, Arizona. In February 1927, the Arizona State Museum (ASM) purchased the cultural items, which were described by Hargrave as funerary belongings. No additional site information could be located within archival records housed at ASM, but the cultural items are designated as Hohokam/Salado on catalog cards. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

A total of three cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The three unassociated funerary objects are a shell bead necklace, a stone bead necklace, and shell tinklers.

On a date prior to June 1927, a site (designated in collections as AZ U:8:—Welker) was encountered by Harry Welker near Roosevelt, Gila County, Arizona. Welker removed cultural items from the site and later sold them to the Arizona State Museum in June 1927. The cultural items, stated to have come from funerary features, represent Hohokam and Salado archaeological

traditions. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

A total of four cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The four unassociated funerary objects are a ceramic figurine, a lithic drill fragment, and lithic projectile points. On an unknown date prior to November 1930, Ventry Steward excavated a site (designated in collections as AZ V:1:—[ASM]/AZ C:1:68[GP]) for the Gila Pueblo Archaeological Foundation (Gila Pueblo). The site was described as a collapsed pueblo located west of McFadden Horse Mountain at Circle Ranch in Gila County, Arizona. In November 1930, Steward sold the cultural items removed from the site to Gila Pueblo. The items were later cataloged as Mogollon. On December 16, 1950, all collections previously held by Gila Pueblo that had not been previously dispositioned, including cultural items from this site, were donated to the Arizona State Museum upon the Foundation's closure. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

A total of two cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are ceramic bowls. On an unknown date prior to February 1927, Lyndon Hargrave excavated a site designated as Ruin 10 (Hargrave) in Gila or Maricopa County, Arizona. Catalog cards list the site location as Dillinger Ranch in the Roosevelt Lake district, though a more specific location could not be determined. In February 1927, Hargrave sold the cultural items removed from the site to the Arizona State Museum. The cultural items represent the Salado archaeological tradition. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

A total of four cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The four unassociated funerary objects are ceramic jars. On an unknown date prior to February 1927, Lyndon Hargrave excavated a site designated as Ruin 15 (Hargrave) in an unknown location on the east side of Trough Wash in the Roosevelt Lake District, Gila or Maricopa County, Arizona. In February 1927, Hargrave sold the cultural items removed from the site to the Arizona State Museum. The collection represents Hohokam and Salado archaeological traditions. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

A total of three cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The three unassociated funerary objects are a ceramic bowl, a ceramic jar, and a ceramic scoop. On an unknown date prior to February 1927, Lyndon Hargrave excavated a site designated as Ruin 4 (Hargrave) in an unknown location in either Gila or Maricopa County, Arizona. Catalog cards list the site location as the east side of Trough Wash in the Roosevelt Lake District. In February 1927, Hargrave sold the cultural items removed from the site to the Arizona State Museum. The collection represents Hohokam and Salado archaeological traditions. There are no documented applications of hazardous substances for the items in this collection.

Determinations

The Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, has determined that:

- The 108 unassociated funerary objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near human remains, and are connected, either at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony of a Native American culture according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization. The unassociated funerary objects have been identified by a preponderance of the evidence as related to human remains, specific individuals, or families, or removed from a specific burial site or burial area of an individual or individuals with cultural affiliation to an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- There is a reasonable connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Hopi Tribe of Arizona and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River Reservation, Arizona.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05041 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6978; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042299; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Petroleum Reserves, Washington, DC

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Petroleum Reserves, intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and/or objects of cultural patrimony and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Dr. Michael G. Elliott, U.S. Department of Energy, John Weld Peck Federal Building, 550 Main Street, Room 7–010, Cincinnati, OH 45202, email *Michael.elliott@hq.doe.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Petroleum Reserves, and additional

information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of 23 boxes of cultural items currently stored at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) have been requested for repatriation. The materials derive from eight federally authorized archaeological investigations conducted at the former Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1 (NPR–1), also known as the Elk Hills Oil Field, located in Kern County, California, prior to the property's privatization in 1998. The collection consists primarily of lithic materials, including stone tools and debitage, with additional shell beads and faunal remains. No artifacts were treated with potentially hazardous substances. Available documentation indicates that no human remains were included as part of these CSUB-held materials.

Formal consultation meetings and discussions were conducted with representatives of the Tejon Indian Tribe, Tule River Indian Tribe, and Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe to discuss the repatriation regulatory process and to receive Tribal and CSUB input.

Determinations

The U.S. Department of Energy has determined that:

- The one or more unassociated funerary objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near human remains, and are connected, either at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony of a Native American culture according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization. The unassociated funerary objects have been identified by a preponderance of the evidence as related to human remains, specific individuals, or families, or removed from a specific burial site or burial area of an individual or individuals with cultural affiliation to an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- The one or more sacred objects described in this notice are specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization.
- The one or more objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision), according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- The one or more sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice are, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, and have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision).
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Tejon Indian Tribe.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Petroleum Reserves, must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Petroleum Reserves, is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05037 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6977; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042298; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Santa Barbara, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and associated funerary objects and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to Luke Swetland, President and CEO, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara, CA 93105, email *lswetland@sbnature2.org.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Human remains representing, at least, nine individuals have been identified. At least 189 associated funerary objects are present. The human remains include 33 skeletal elements under eight catalog numbers. The first of these two accessions, comprised of 30 human skeletal elements and 127 associated funerary objects, was donated by Wesley

Clover to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in 1997. The second accession, comprised of three human skeletal elements and 62 associated funerary objects, was donated by Wesley Clover to the Santa Cruz Island Foundation in February, 2009, and subsequently donated to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in March of that same year. Wesley Clover was a familial descendant of notorious Channel Islands Chumash grave robber Rev. Stephen DeMoss Bowers, from whose collections these materials were derived. In aggregate, these combined accessions are comprised of various classes of artifacts including bone (*e.g.,* awls, flakers, fleshers, pry bars, deer tibia whistle, fragmented faunal remains, sea mammal teeth, mountain lion claw, golden eagle talon, prehistoric shark tooth, otolith, fish bone), unflaked stone (*e.g.,* mortar, pestles, manos, doughnut stones, cogstone, discoidal, groundstone), flaked stone (*e.g.,* projectile points, drills, cores, scrapers), shell (*e.g.,* abalone bowl, beads), mineral specimens (*e.g.,* iron pyrite, chalcedony, ochre, obsidian), asphaltum, and historic glass beads.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is reasonably identified by the geographical location or acquisition history of the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice.

Determinations

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of at least nine individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The 189 objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.
- There is a connection between the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation, California and the Tejon Indian Tribe.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.
2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05036 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6989; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042310; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Stanford University, Stanford, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Stanford University intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Laura Jones, Repatriation Officer, Stanford University, 477 Oak Road, Stanford CA 94305, email *repatriation@stanford.edu.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of Stanford University, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of one cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary objects is a string of stone beads noted as 'cremation beads' originating in Placerville, CA. The beads were acquired by J.H. Hecht from R.L. Cass in January 1946. Stanford has no knowledge of any potentially hazardous substances used to treat any of the cultural items.

Determinations

Stanford University has determined that:

- The one unassociated funerary object described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near human remains, and are connected, either at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony of a Native American culture according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization. The unassociated funerary object has been identified by a preponderance of the evidence as related to human remains, specific individuals, or families, or removed from a specific burial site or burial area of an individual or individuals with cultural affiliation to an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Shingle Springs Rancheria (Verona Tract), California.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or

a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received Stanford University must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Stanford University is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05048 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6973; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042294; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (SNOMNH) intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of sacred objects and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Chelsea Rose, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Avenue, Norman, OK 73072–7029, email *Chelsea.Rose@ou.edu.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the SNOMNH, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of four cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The four sacred objects are two carved Sun Dance pegs (NAM 09–06–248, NAM 09–06–249), one medicine bag (and contents) (NAM 09–06–228a–g), and one additional medicine bag (NAM 09–06–330). Both carved Sun Dance pegs were likely collected by W.S. Campbell/Stanley Vestal and donated by his family to the museum. One medicine bag (NAM 09–06–228a–g) was part of a collection of objects acquired by William H. Munger during his residence at Watonga, OK, as a merchant. Mr. Munger moved into Cheyenne and Arapaho country in 1892 and opened a store. Mr. Munger passed away in 1926, and in 1947 his collection including this medicine bag was donated to the SNOMNH. There are no records of how these donors came into possession of these objects; therefore, it is not possible to confirm the objects were obtained with the voluntary consent of a person or group with the authority to alienate these objects. One additional medicine bag (NAM 09–06–330) was donated to the museum in 1988. The donor received the bag from a Cheyenne individual, but SNOMNH has no documentation that this individual had authority to alienate the object. As such, the museum does not have a clear right of possession to this object.

In the past, hazardous substances were used to treat the Ethnology Collection at SNOMNH. The Ethnology Collection in part or whole was exposed to Paradichlorobenzene (PBD in textile storage-discontinued around or before 1981), Naphthalene (moth flake packets stored with textiles-discontinued around 1985), and Vapona (no-pest-strips (active ingredient: Dichlorvos DDVP) and pyrethrins, placed in cases with objects, discontinued around 1986). None of these products were ever in direct contact with objects. Any potential treatments of these objects by donors are unknown.

The building where the Ethnology collection was previously stored was subject to fumigation multiple times per year from 1983–1985, using Vapo-Mist 500, 5% Vapona Insecticide (active ingredient was dichlorovinyl dimethyl phosphate (DDVP), and also contained petroleum distillates and 1,1,1-trichloethane). Chemical remnants may have remained present in objects, as well as museum cabinets and other furniture used to store collections.

Determinations

The SNOMNH has determined that:

- The four sacred objects described in this notice are specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization.
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The SNOMNH is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05033 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6984; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042305; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Augusta Museum of History, Augusta, GA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Augusta Museum of History has completed an inventory of associated funerary objects and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the associated funerary objects and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the associated funerary objects in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the associated funerary objects in this notice to Nancy Glaser, Augusta Museum of History, 560 Reynolds Street, Augusta, GA 30901, email *amh@augustamuseum.org.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Augusta Museum of History, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Based on the information available, one associated funerary object was removed from the Montezuma site (11PK41) in Pike Co., Illinois on December 18, 1924 by F.E. Ellis of Webster Groves, Illinois. The one associated funerary object is one lot of shell beads.

The Augusta Museum of History has no record of, nor do its officials have any knowledge of, any treatment of items with pesticides, preservatives, or other substances that represent a potential hazard to the collection(s) or to persons handling the collection(s).

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is reasonably identified by the geographical location or acquisition history of the associated funerary objects described in this notice.

Determinations

The Augusta Museum of History has determined that:

- The one object described in this notice is reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.
- There is a connection between the associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma; Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin; Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska; Kaw Nation, Oklahoma; Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi (previously listed as Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan); Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; Omaha Tribe of Nebraska; Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, Oklahoma; Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Michigan and Indiana; Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; Ponca Tribe of Nebraska; Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation; Quapaw Nation; Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma; Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa; Shawnee Tribe; and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the associated funerary objects in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the associated funerary objects described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Augusta Museum of History must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the associated funerary objects are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Augusta Museum of Hisotry is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05043 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6986; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042307; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, FL

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Florida Department of State has completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and associated funerary objects and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to Tea Kaplan, Florida Department of State, 2100 W Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL 32304, email *Tea.Kaplan@dos.fl.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Florida Department of State, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Human remains representing, at least, three individuals have been identified. The two associated funerary objects are unmodified faunal remains. Ancestral

remains and associated objects were transferred to the Florida Department of State from Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP—representatives of the estate executor of a deceased individual—in 2024 under 872.05, Florida Statutes. The deceased removed the remains from an unknown location in Iowa in 1973 and subsequently moved to Florida. There are no hazardous substances present.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is reasonably identified by the geographical location or acquisition history of the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice.

Determinations

The Florida Department of State has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of three individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The two objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.
- There is a connection between the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota; Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma; Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota; Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin; Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska; Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma; Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota; Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; Omaha Tribe of Nebraska; Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, Oklahoma; Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma; Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma; Ponca Tribe of Nebraska; Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation; Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska; Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma; Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa; Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska; Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota; Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota; The Osage Nation; Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota; Upper Sioux Community, Minnesota; Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska; and the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.
2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Florida Department of State must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Florida Department of State is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05045 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6959; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042292; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: California State University, Chico, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the California State University, Chico, intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Michelle Hansen, California State University, Chico, 400 W 1st Street, Chico, CA 95929, email *mcampbell19@csuchico.edu.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the California State University, Chico, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of one lot of cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The lot of sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony are glass fragments and a group of obsidian projectile points/fragments. The cultural items were archeologically recovered from a site in Siskiyou County in 1978 and brought to Chico State under accession number 156. The survey was conducted in the Lake Shastina area prior to a planned housing development being built. The site is in Siskiyou County and within the traditional territory of the Karuk Tribe. No known potentially hazardous substances were used to treat any of the cultural items.

Determinations

The California State University, Chico, has determined that:

- The one lot of sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice are, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, and have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision).
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Karuk Tribe.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized

representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the California State University, Chico, must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The California State University, Chico is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05031 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6974; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042295; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, San Juan Island National Historical Park, Friday Harbor, WA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, San Juan Island National Historical Park (SAJH) has completed an inventory of human remains and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice to Elexis J. Fredy, Superintendent, San Juan Island National Historical Park, 650 Mullis Street, Suite 100, Friday Harbor, WA 98250, email *Elexis_Fredy@nps.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Superintendent, SAJH, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In July 2025, a partial human cranial parietal bone was collected by park personnel from an exterior brochure rack near the entrance of the American Camp Visitor Center, San Juan Island County, WA. The bone was likely placed in the brochure rack at an unknown date by an unknown individual. The bone was later positively identified as Native American. Presence of barnacle growth, extant weathering, and wave-tumbled edge suggests the bone is archeological Coast Salish and likely originated from an unknown location in the tidal zone of an eroded coastal midden site. No known hazardous substances were used on these human remains.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is reasonably identified by the geographical location or acquisition history of the human remains described in this notice.

Determinations

The SAJH has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of one individual of Native American ancestry.
- There is a connection between the human remains described in this notice and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Lower Elwha Tribal Community; Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation; Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe; Samish Indian Nation; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; and the Tulalip Tribes of Washington.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the SAJH must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains are considered a single request and not competing requests. The SAJH is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05034 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6980; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042301; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, OK

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Gilcrease Museum has completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and associated funerary objects and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to Laura Bryant, Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N Gilcrease Museum Road, Tulsa, OK 74127, email *laura-bryant@utulsa.edu.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Gilcrease Museum, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Human remains representing, at least, one individual has been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. The human remains were removed from Poinsett County, Arkansas by Frank Soday, an avocational archaeologist, on an unknown date. Frank Soday's collection was purchased by the Thomas Gilcrease Association in 1982 and then gifted to Gilcrease Museum that same year.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual has been identified. The one associated funerary object is one vessel containing shell beads. These were removed by an unknown individual at an unknown date from likely a site in Arkansas.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual has been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In 1934, Harry J. Lemley and S. Dorris Dickinson sponsored excavations, headed by Dickinson, on archaeological sites on Bayou Macon and Bartholomew in Desha and Chicot counties, Arkansas. The Lemley collection was purchased by the Gilcrease Foundation in 1955 and transferred to the City of Tulsa in 1963–64.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the information available about the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice.

Determinations

The Gilcrease Museum has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of three individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The one object described in this notice is reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.
- There is a connection between the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Quapaw Nation.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Gilcrease Museum must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Gilcrease Museum is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05039 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6987; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042308; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC, and Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Western Washington University intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of objects of cultural patrimony and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Tamara Billie, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1001 Indian School Road NW, Mailbox 44, Albuquerque, NM 87104, email *tamara.billie@bia.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of 330 cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 330 objects of cultural patrimony comprise precontact lithics, historic items, mammal, fish, and bird bones, shell, charcoal, pebbles, and associated sediment. In 1954, Dr. Herbert Taylor of Western Washington University (WWU) and field school students conducted excavations on Squaxin Island. Taylor's field notes from this work indicate that Sites #1, #4, and #9 were identified. These may correspond to recorded archaeological sites 45–MA–37 and/or 45–MA–54 (Taylor 1956, Anthropological Investigation of the

Medicine Creek Tribes Relative to Tribal Identity and Aboriginal Possession of Lands, Docket No. 234, De. Ex. 129). No hazardous chemicals are known to have been used to treat these items while in the custody of WWU.

Determinations

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, has determined that:

- The 330 objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision), according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Squaxin Island Tribe of the Squaxin Island Reservation.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05046 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6976; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042297; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Kalamazoo Valley Museum, Kalamazoo, MI

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Kalamazoo Valley Museum intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Regina Gorham, Collections Manager, Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 230 North Rose Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, email *rgorham@kvcc.edu.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of 11 cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 11 sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony are baskets. These baskets were originally loaned to the museum in 1927 by Albert May Todd and bequeathed to the museum in 1932 after his death. A.M. Todd traveled the world collecting. Most of the Native belongings Todd purchased was at the Whalen's Curio Shop in Los Angeles, California. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is not aware of the baskets being treated.

Determinations

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum has determined that:

- The 11 sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice are, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, and have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision).
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Pala Band of Mission Indians.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05035 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6970; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042293; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum, Rockford, IL

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum (TSCM) intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of sacred objects and that have a cultural affiliation with the Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Samantha Hochmann, Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum, 411 Kent Street, Rockford, IL 61102, email *samantha@tinkercottage.com.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the TSCM, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of seven cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The seven sacred objects are fishhook & line, shark tooth weapon, shark tooth knife, sling, cloth (kapa), and shell necklace. The artifacts were originally brought to Rockford, IL by Robert Tinker in the 1870s. Robert was born in the Hawaiian islands as his parents served as missionaries from 1831–1841, and he returned for his honeymoon in 1870. The seven items were collected by himself and his parents during their time in the islands, in large part near Hilo and Honolulu. All seven cultural items qualify as sacred objects not only because of their primary functions, but specifically because of their ceremonial function during the ʻike pāpālua ceremonies.

Determinations

The TSCM has determined that:

- The seven sacred objects described in this notice are, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, and have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision).
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Hui Iwi Kuamoʻo.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the TSCM must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The TSCM is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05032 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6981; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042302; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Amy Covell-Murthy, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, email *covella@carnegiemnh.org.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the CMNH, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of 12 cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 12 sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony are Kapa (three Tapa cloths, accession numbers 1444, 6155–18, 6157), Kānoa (ʻAwa Bowl accession number 9331–230), ʻUpena (Fish Net accession number 9331–231), Lei (Necklace accession number 11578–990), Kā Waʻa (Canoe Bailer accession number 29455), ʻUmeke Lāʻau (two Wood Bowls accession numbers 2356–1, 2356–2), Kāloa (Oval Wooden Platter accession number 2356–3), Luaʻi Pele (Lava accession number 8793–3), and Lei Niho Palaoa (Whale Tooth Pendant Necklace accession number 10616–1).These objects were donated to CMNH by nine separate donors over seven decades. All these items lack specific provenience, other than general Hawaiʻian origin. To the best of our knowledge, no hazardous substances were used to treat the items.

Determinations

The CMNH has determined that:

- The 12 sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice are, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, and have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band,

clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision).

- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Hui Iwi Kuamoʻo.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the CMNH must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The CMNH is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05040 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6983; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042304; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Autry Museum of the American West, Los Angeles, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Autry Museum of the American West (Southwest Museum Collection) intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, and/or objects of cultural patrimony and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Karimah Richardson, M.Phil., RPA, Associate Curator of Anthropology and Repatriation Supervisor, Autry Museum of the American West, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles, CA 90027, email *krichardson@theautry.org.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Autry Museum of the American West, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of eight cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The eight sacred objects are two cornhusk medicine masks, two dance rattles, and four tobacco offering baskets. On an unknown date, Mr. Mark Raymond Harrington collected the medicine masks and dance rattles (195.L.23, 24, 35, and 49) from unknown locations in New York. In 1930, Mr. Harrington loaned and then later donated the cultural materials to the Southwest Museum (now part of the Autry Museum of the American West) after he started working for the museum as curator of archaeology. The tobacco offering baskets (900.G.91, 900.G.92, 900.G.93, 1719.G.6) were collected from unknown locations in New York around 1908 and later donated to the Southwest Museum by Mr. Harrington in 1942 using funds from the Charles Avery Amsden Memorial Collection.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one sacred object is one dance mask. On an unknown date, Mr. Irvin S. Cobb collected the dance mask (491.G.1399) from an unknown location in western New York. The Southwest Museum purchased this cultural item in 1945 using funds from the General Charles McC Reeve fund. It was purchased from Mr. Cobb, who most likely bought it from Mr. Jay Fern Snively, a dealer in Native American artifacts.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one object of cultural patrimony is one pipe tomahawk. The pipe tomahawk (517.G.2) was collected by the relative of Major FR Burnham before 1830 from unknown location in Western New York. It once belonged to Seneca Chief Red Jacket and went to the Burnham family before the Chief's death in 1830. The cultural item then went to Admiral DeChair, who carried it to China, India, the Mediterranean countries, and England. Eventually, it was returned to the Burnham family. The pipe tomahawk was donated to the Southwest Museum in 1940 by Major FR Burnham.

A total of two cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are two lots of trade beads. On an unknown date, Mr. Edward Butts collected trade beads (964.G.251A/B) from Livingston County, near Avon in New York. Mr. J.G. Braecklein an amateur archaeologist who also purchased archaeological material from other collectors, acquired part of the Butts collection, which he later donated to the Southwest Museum.

A total of 27 cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 25 sacred objects are nine medicine masks, one written prayer, two tobacco offerings, five rattles, one flute, five wampum strings, one necklace, and one string of shell beads. The two sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony are one medicine mask and one wampum stick. The cultural items (1409.G Collection) were collected by Mr. Joseph Keppler, an avid collector of Native American objects, between 1890–1935 from an unknown location in New York and were donated to the Southwest Museum by Mrs. Vera Keppler, Mr. Joseph Keppler's wife, in 1959.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one sacred object is one medicine mask. On an unknown date, an unknown collector collected a medicine mask (1582.G.46) from an unknown location in New York. The cultural item was donated to the Southwest Museum by Mrs. Clyde Porter in 1959.

Determinations

The Autry Museum of the American West has determined that:

- The two unassociated funerary objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near human remains, and are connected, either at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony of a Native American culture according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization. The

unassociated funerary objects have been identified by a preponderance of the evidence as related to human remains, specific individuals, or families, or removed from a specific burial site or burial area of an individual or individuals with cultural affiliation to an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

- The 35 sacred objects described in this notice are specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization.
- The one object of cultural patrimony described in this notice have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision), according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- The two sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice are, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization, specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, and have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent.
- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Seneca Nation of Indians and the Tonawanda Band of Seneca.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Autry Museum of the American West must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Autry Museum of the American West is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

(Authority:) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05042 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6980; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042301; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, OK

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Gilcrease Museum has completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and associated funerary objects and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to Laura Bryant, Gilcrease Museum, 1400 N Gilcrease Museum Road, Tulsa, OK 74127, email *laura-bryant@utulsa.edu.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Gilcrease Museum, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Human remains representing, at least, one individual has been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. The human remains were removed from Poinsett County, Arkansas by Frank Soday, an avocational archaeologist, on an unknown date. Frank Soday's collection was purchased by the Thomas Gilcrease Association in 1982 and then gifted to Gilcrease Museum that same year.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual has been identified. The one associated funerary object is one vessel containing shell beads. These were removed by an unknown individual at an unknown date from likely a site in Arkansas.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual has been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In 1934, Harry J. Lemley and S. Dorris Dickinson sponsored excavations, headed by Dickinson, on archaeological sites on Bayou Macon and Bartholomew in Desha and Chicot counties, Arkansas. The Lemley collection was purchased by the Gilcrease Foundation in 1955 and transferred to the City of Tulsa in 1963–64.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the information available about the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice.

Determinations

The Gilcrease Museum has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of three individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The one object described in this notice is reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.
- There is a connection between the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Quapaw Nation.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Gilcrease Museum must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Gilcrease Museum is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05038 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6985; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042306; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of Michigan has completed an inventory of human remains (hereinafter referred to as ''Native American individual'') and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the Native American individual and the Indian Tribe in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the Native American individual in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the Native American individual in this notice to Dr. Ben Secunda, NAGPRA Office Managing Director, University of Michigan, Office of Research, Suite G269, Lane Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48109–1274, email *bsecunda@umich.edu.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the University of Michigan, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

One Native American individual has been identified. No associated funerary objects. In March of 1956, this individual was transferred from a facility in Isabella County, Michigan to the University of Michigan Anatomical Donations Program. Consultation occurred with representatives of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Michigan; as well as Ms. Linda Andre.

The University of Michigan has no record of, nor do its officials have any knowledge of, any treatment of the Native American individual with pesticides, preservatives, or other substances that represent a potential hazard to the Native American individual or to persons handling the Native American individual.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the information available about the Native American individual described in this notice.

Determinations

The University of Michigan has determined that:

- The Native American individual described in this notice represent the physical remains of one individual of Native American ancestry.
- There is a connection between the Native American individual described in this notice and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Michigan.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the Native American individual in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the Native American individual described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the University of Michigan must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the Native American individual are considered a single request and not competing requests. The University of Michigan is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribe identified in this notice.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05044 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6988; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042309; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the American Museum of Natural History has completed an inventory of human remains and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice to Nell Murphy, American Museum of Natural History, 200 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024, email *nmurphy@amnh.org.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the American Museum of Natural History, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Human remains representing, at least, nine individuals have been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In 1911, Carl Lumholtz, a Norwegian naturalist sold four hairbrushes that he collected in Arizona to the Museum which accessioned them that same year. The four hairbrushes are catalogued as ''Papago.'' In 1911, the AMNH accessioned four hairbrushes that Ms. Mary Lois Kissell collected in Arizona between 1909–1910 as part of the Huntington Southwest Expedition. The Museum accessioned these hairbrushes, all of which are catalogued as ''Papago'' or ''Papago?'' in 1911. 1 hairbrush which is catalogued as Papago? was found in storage and the acquisition history is unknown.

While it no longer does so, in the past, the Museum applied potentially hazardous pesticides to items in the collections. Museum records do not list specific objects treated or which of several chemicals used were applied to a particular item. Therefore, those handling this material should follow the advice of industrial hygienists or medical personnel with specialized training in occupational health or with potentially hazardous substances.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is reasonably identified by the geographical location and acquisition history of the human remains described in this notice.

Determinations

The American Museum of Natural History has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of nine individuals of Native American ancestry.
- There is a connection between the human remains described in this notice and the Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.
2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the American Museum of Natural History must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains are considered a single request and not competing requests. The American Museum of Natural History is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05047 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N6990; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042311; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: The Field Museum, Chicago, IL

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Field Museum intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of objects of cultural patrimony and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Helen Robbins, The Field Museum, 1400 S DuSable Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605, email *hrobbins@fieldmuseum.org.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the Field Museum, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

A total of 270 cultural items have been requested for repatriation from Coconino and Navajo Counties, Arizona for repatriation. These 270 objects of cultural patrimony are from one accession that has been approved for repatriation. They consist of ceramic vessels such as food bowls, cooking pots, jars, vases, mugs, and ladles; bone items such as awls and shell objects; stone items such as mortars, a hammer, and other implements; and jewelry. The requested items are part of Accession 745, (now known as the Frank J. Wattron Collection) and was acquired in 1901 by the Field Columbian Museum (now known as the Field Museum). Frank J. Wattron removed or purchased the requested items between July 1898 and April 1899 from various sites affiliated with the Hopi Tribe in northeastern Arizona, including K Ranch, X Ranch, Sikyatki, Taylor Springs, and Moki Peaks. All items in this request are archaeological and identified in Field Museum records as Hopi. Based on consultation, academic research, and Field Museum records, these sites are affiliated with the Hopi Tribe of Arizona. There is no known presence of any potentially hazardous substances used to treat any of the cultural items.

Determinations

The Field Museum has determined that:

- The 270 objects of cultural patrimony described in this notice have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Native American group, including any constituent sub-group (such as a band, clan, lineage, ceremonial society, or other subdivision), according to the

Native American traditional knowledge of an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

- There is a connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Hopi Tribe of Arizona.

Requests for Repatriation

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after April 15, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Field Museum must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Field Museum is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: March 5, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–05049 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701–TA–627 and 629 and 731–TA–1458–1461 (Review)]

Utility Scale Wind Towers From Canada, Indonesia, South Korea, and Vietnam; Determinations

On the basis of the record [1] developed in the subject five-year reviews, the United States International Trade Commission (''Commission'') determines, pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 (''the Act''), that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on utility scale wind towers from Canada, Indonesia, South Korea, and Vietnam and countervailing duty orders on utility scale wind towers from Canada and Vietnam would likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

Background

The Commission instituted these reviews on July 1, 2025 (90 FR 28764) and determined on November 24, 2025 that it would conduct expedited reviews (91 FR 539, January 7, 2026).

The Commission made these determinations pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)). It completed and filed its determinations in these reviews on March 12, 2026. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 5714 (March 2026), entitled *Utility Scale Wind Towers from Canada, Indonesia, South Korea, and Vietnam: Investigation Nos. 701–TA–627 and 629 and 731–TA–1458–1461 (Review).*

By order of the Commission.

Issued: March 12, 2026.

Lisa Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2026–05107 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

[1] The record is defined in § 207.2(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure; Meeting of the Judicial Conference

AGENCY: Judicial Conference of the United States.

ACTION: Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure; revised notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure will hold an in-person meeting in hybrid format with remote attendance options on June 3, 2026 and June 4, 2026 in Chicago, IL, rather than in Washington, DC, as previously announced. The meeting is open to the public for observation but not participation. Please see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section in this notice for instructions on observing the meeting.

DATES: June 3–4, 2026 (meeting dates) and May 27, 2026 (registration deadline for in-person observation).

ADDRESSES: An agenda and supporting materials will be posted at least 7 days in advance of the meeting at: *https://www.uscourts.gov/forms-rules/records-rules-committees/agenda-books.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn A. Dubay, Chief Counsel, Rules Committee Staff, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle NE, Suite 7–300, Washington, DC 20544, Phone (202) 502–1820, *RulesCommittee_Secretary@ao.uscourts.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To observe the meeting in person, individuals must contact the office listed above by 5 p.m. (eastern time) on May 27, 2026. After this deadline, only remote observation is permitted. Remote registration is available until the meeting date, provided it is completed before the projected end time. The announcement for this meeting was previously published in the **Federal Register** on March 3, 2026 at 91 FR 10420.

(Authority: 28 U.S.C. 2073.)

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Shelly L. Cox,

Management Analyst, Rules Committee Staff.

[FR Doc. 2026–05021 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 2210–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; War Hazards Compensation Act Claims, Benefits, and Notices

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited.

DATES: The OMB will consider all written comments that the agency receives on or before April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection by selecting ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of

the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nicole Bouchet by telephone at 202–693–0213, or by email at *DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Information collected using OWCP Form CA–278, Claim for Reimbursement of Benefit Payments and Claims Expense Under the War Hazards Compensation Act (WHCA), allows OWCP to consider requests filed by insurance carriers and self-insured that have paid benefits to workers injured due to a war-risk hazard to be reimbursed for such benefits out of the Employees' Compensation Fund. The WH–1 Form, Notice of Injury or Disease and Claim for Benefits under the War Hazards Compensation Act, allows beneficiaries to file a claim under the WHCA and will simplify the process of filing an initial claim for benefits and gather the necessary information to expedite claim decisions and reimbursements. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the **Federal Register** on April 2, 2025 (90 FR 14483).

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

Agency: DOL–OWCP.

Title of Collection: War Hazards Compensation Act Claims, Benefits, and Notices.

OMB Control Number: 1240–0006.

Affected Public: Private Sector—Businesses or other for-profits.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 14.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 2,528.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 1,264 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: $5,840.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D))

Nicole Bouchet,

Senior PRA Analyst.

[FR Doc. 2026–04999 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–26–P

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) Board of Directors and its Governance and Performance Review, Audit, and Finance committees will meet March 23–24, 2026. On Monday, March 23, the Governance and Performance Review Committee meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. ET, with the Audit Committee meeting commencing promptly upon adjournment. The Finance Committee meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. ET. On Tuesday, March 24, the first meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. ET. Each meeting will continue until the conclusion of the meeting agenda.

PLACE: Public Notice of Hybrid Meeting.

LSC will conduct its March 23–24, 2026, meetings at the Legal Services Corporation offices, 1825 I St. NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20006, and virtually via videoconference.

Public Observation: Members of the public wishing to observe the open meetings in person at 1825 I (Eye) Street NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20006, must register in advance by sending an email to *helpdesk@lsc.gov* by no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Additionally, unless otherwise noted herein, the meetings will be open to public observation via LSC's YouTube channel: *https://www.youtube.com/@LegalServicesCorp/streams.*

STATUS: Open, except as noted below.

Governance and Performance Review Committee—Open, except that, upon a vote of the Board of Directors, the meeting may be closed to the public to report on evaluations of Vice President for Grants Management, Vice President for Government Relations & Public Affairs, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer.

Audit Committee—Open, except that, upon a vote of the Board of Directors, the meeting may be closed to the public to discuss follow-up work by the Office of Compliance and Enforcement relating to open Office of Inspector General investigations and to discuss grantee oversight activities.

Finance Committee—Open, except that, upon a vote of the Board of Directors, the meeting may be closed to the public to receive an update on LSC's investment policy and investment advisor.

Board of Directors—Open, except that, upon a vote of the Board of Directors, the meeting may be closed to the public to receive briefings from Management and the Inspector General and to consider and act on potential and pending litigation involving LSC as well as a list of prospective Leaders Council and Emerging Leaders Council members.

Any portion of the closed sessions consisting solely of briefings does not fall within the Sunshine Act's definition of the term ''meeting'' and, therefore, the requirements of the Sunshine Act do not apply to such portion of the closed session.

A verbatim written transcript will be made of the closed sessions of the Governance and Performance Review, Audit, Finance, and Board of Directors meetings. The transcript of any portions of the closed session falling within the relevant provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), (7), (9) and (10), will not be available for public inspection. A copy of the General Counsel's Certification that, in his opinion, the closing is authorized by law will be available upon request.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Meeting Schedule

Monday, March 23, 2026

Start Time (All ET)

1. Governance and Performance Review Committee Meeting: 9:45 a.m. ET
   a. There are no matters to discuss.
2. Audit Committee Meeting
   a. Matters to be discussed include the Office of Inspector General's annual audit/oversight plan for LSC and its grantees; a briefing by the Office of Inspector General; LSC's annual audit; a management update regarding risk management; LSC's IT and cybersecurity strategy; LSC's grantee-related cybersecurity risks; and follow-up by the Office of Compliance and Enforcement on referrals by the Office of Inspector

General regarding audit reports and annual financial statement audits of grantees.

3. Finance Committee Meeting: 3:30 p.m. ET
   a. Matters to be discussed include LSC's FY 2027 appropriations request; the process and timetable for FY 2028 budget requests; and a financial report for the first five months of FY 2026.

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Start Time (All ET)

1. Board of Directors Meeting: 9:00 a.m. ET
   a. Matters to be discussed include Chairman's Report; Members' Reports; President's Report; Inspector General's Report; and consideration of reports from the Institutional Advancement, Delivery of Legal Services, Operations and Regulations, Governance and Performance Review, Audit, and Finance Committees.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Kimberly Little, Board and Executive Coordinator, at (202) 295–1500. Questions may also be sent by electronic mail to the Office of the Corporate Secretary at *updates@lsc.gov.*

Non-Confidential Meeting Materials: Non-confidential meeting materials will be made available in electronic format at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting on the LSC website, at *https://www.lsc.gov/about-lsc/board-meeting-materials.*

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552b.)

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Stefanie Davis,

Deputy General Counsel, Legal Services Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2026–05025 Filed 3–12–26; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 7050–01–P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests: 2026–2028 IMLS Native American Library Services Basic Grants Program—Final Performance Report Form

AGENCY: Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

ACTION: Notice, request for comments on this collection of information.

SUMMARY: The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. This pre-clearance consultation program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The purpose of this Notice is to solicit comments concerning renewal of the three-year approval of the forms necessary to report on grant and cooperative agreement activities on both an interim and final basis for all IMLS grant programs for 2026–2028 IMLS Native American Library Services Basic Grants Program—Final Performance Report Form. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before May 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Sandra Narva, Acting Director of Grants Management, Office of Grants Policy and Management, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Suite N–3627, Washington, DC 20210. Ms. Narva can be reached by telephone: 202–653–4634, or by email at *snarva@imls.gov*. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra Narva, Acting Director of Grants Management, Office of Grants Policy and Management, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Suite N–3627, Washington, DC 20210. Ms. Narva can be reached by telephone: 202–653–4634, or by email at *snarva@imls.gov*. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: IMLS is particularly interested in public comments that help the agency to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submissions of responses.

I. Background

IMLS is the primary source of Federal support for the Nation's libraries and museums. The agency advances, supports, and empowers America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grant making, research, and policy development. To learn more, visit *www.imls.gov*.

II. Current Actions

To administer the processes associated with Native American Library Services Basic Grants, IMLS uses standardized application forms, guidelines, and reporting forms for eligible Native American tribes. This Notice invites public review of the Final Performance Report Form for the Native American Library Services Basic Grants, along with its instructions. The collection of information using this form is core to IMLS grant performance reporting requirements and monitoring responsibilities. This action is to renew the content, form, and instructions for the next three years.

Agency: Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Title: 2026–2028 IMLS Native American Library Services Basic Grants Program—Final Performance Report Form.

OMB Control Number: 3137–0098.

Agency Number: 3137.

Respondents/Affected Public: Native American Basic grant program recipients.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 150.

Frequency of Response: Once per request.

Estimated Average Burden Hours per Response: 1.5.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 225.

Total Annual Cost Burden: $7,419.

Total Annual Federal Costs: $7,328.

Public Comments Invited: Comments submitted in response to this Notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Suzanne Mbollo,

Grants Management Specialist, Institute of Museum and Library Services.

[FR Doc. 2026–05008 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7036–01–P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Institute of Museum and Library Services

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests: 2026–2028 Grant Performance Report Forms

AGENCY: Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

ACTION: Notice, request for comments on this collection of information.

SUMMARY: The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. This pre-clearance consultation program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The purpose of this Notice is to solicit comments concerning renewal of the three-year approval of the forms necessary to report on grant and cooperative agreement activities on an interim and final basis for all IMLS grant programs for 2026–2028 Grant Performance Report Forms. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the **ADDRESSES** section of this Notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before May 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Sandra Narva, Acting Director of Grants Management, Office of Grants Policy and Management, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Suite N–3627, Washington, DC 20210. Ms. Narva can be reached by telephone: 202–653–4634, or by email at *snarva@imls.gov.* Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra Narva, Acting Director of Grants Management, Office of Grants Policy and Management, Institute of Museum and Library Services, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Suite N–3627, Washington, DC 20210. Ms. Narva can be reached by telephone: 202–653–4634, or by email at *snarva@imls.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: IMLS is particularly interested in public comments that help the agency to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who respond, including the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submissions of responses.

I. Background

IMLS is the primary source of Federal support for the Nation's libraries and museums. The agency advances, supports, and empowers America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grant making, research, and policy development. To learn more, visit *www.imls.gov.*

II. Current Actions

To administer the processes associated with Federal grants and cooperative agreements, IMLS uses standardized application forms, guidelines, and reporting forms for eligible libraries, museums, and other organizations to apply for agency funding and to report on recipient performance of funded projects. This Notice invites public review of the Interim Performance Report and the Final Performance Report, along with their respective instructions. The collection of information obtained by these forms is core to IMLS grant performance reporting requirements and monitoring processes. This action is to renew the content, forms, and instructions for the next three years.

Agency: Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Title: 2026–2028 Grant Performance Report Forms.

OMB Control Number: 3137–0100.

Agency Number: 3137.

Respondents/Affected Public: Library and museum grant program awardees.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 1,200.

Frequency of Response: Once per request.

Estimated Average Burden Hours per Response: 8.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 9,600.

Total Annual Cost Burden: $321,792.

Total Annual Federal Costs: $73,275.

Public Comments Invited: Comments submitted in response to this Notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

Dated: March 11, 2026.

Suzanne Mbollo,

Grants Management Specialist, Institute of Museum and Library Services.

[FR Doc. 2026–05009 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7036–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC–2026–0958]

Regulatory Issue Summary: Process for Scheduling and Allocating Resources for Fiscal Years 2026–2028 for the Review of New Licensing Applications and Oversight of Construction for Light Water Reactors and Non-Light Water Reactors

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2026–02, ''Process for Scheduling and Allocating Resources for Fiscal Years 2026–2028 for the Review of New Licensing Applications and Oversight of Construction for Light Water Reactors and Non-Light Water Reactors,'' to assist the NRC in determining resource and budget needs for fiscal years (FYs) 2026 through 2028 with respect to future construction-related activities and other anticipated licensing and design certification rulemaking actions and other regulatory and preapplication activities for large light water reactors (LWRs), light water cooled small modular reactors (SMRs), non-LWRs, and nonpower production and utilization facilities; to communicate to stakeholders the agency's process for scheduling its reviews; and to encourage

preapplication engagements with the NRC.

DATES: The RIS is available as of March 9, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2026–0958 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and search for Docket ID NRC–2026–0958. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301–415–1003; email: *Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov.* For technical questions, contact the individual(s) listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.
- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at *https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.* To begin the search, select ''Begin ADAMS Public Search.'' For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, at 301–415–4737, or by email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov.* The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document.
- *NRC's PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov* or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

This RIS is also available on the NRC's public website at *https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/reg-issues/* (select ''2026'' and then select ''2026–02'').

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Lauron, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–2736; email: *Carolyn.Lauron@nrc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NRC published notices of opportunity for public comment on this RIS as an Information Collection in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 59171 and 89 FR 105638) on July 22, 2024, and December 27, 2024, respectively. The agency received comments from one commenter. The evaluation of this comment did not result in any changes to the final RIS and is discussed in a publicly available document found in ADAMS under Accession No. ML26006A098. RIS 2026–02, ''Process for Scheduling and Allocating Resources for Fiscal Years 2026–2028 for the Review of New Licensing Applications and Oversight of Construction for Light Water Reactors and Non-Light Water Reactors,'' is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML26007A152.

Executive Order 12866: The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs determined that this RIS is not a significant regulatory action under E.O. 12866.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*)

Dated: March 11, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Brian Benney,

Acting Chief, Generic Communications and Operating Experience Branch, Division of Reactor Oversight, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 2026–05108 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 70–7027; NRC–2022–0209]

TRISO–X, LLC; Special Nuclear Material License for the TRISO–X Fuel Fabrication Facility

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued Special Nuclear Material (SNM) License No. SNM–7007 to TRISO–X, LLC (TRISO–X) to operate the TRISO–X Fuel Fabrication Facility as proposed in its license application and to possess and use SNM to manufacture high-assay low enriched uranium (HALEU) fuel in Oak Ridge, Roane County, Tennessee. TRISO–X will be required to operate under the conditions listed in Materials License No. SNM–7007. The NRC staff published a record of decision (ROD) that supports the NRC's decision to approve TRISO–X's license application for the fuel fabrication facility and to issue the license.

DATES: Special Nuclear Materials License No. SNM–7007 was issued on February 13, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2022–0209 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may access publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and search for Docket ID NRC–2022–0209. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301–415–1003; email: *Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov.* For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.
- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at *https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.* To begin the search, select ''Begin ADAMS Public Search.'' For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, at 301–415–4737, or by email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov.* For the convenience of the reader, the ADAMS accession numbers are provided in a table in the ''Availability of Documents'' section of this document.
- *NRC's PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov* or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew Bartlett, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–7154; email: *Matthew.Bartlett@nrc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Discussion

The NRC issued a license to TRISO–X for its HALEU fuel fabrication facility in Oak Ridge, Roane County, Tennessee. Special Nuclear Materials License No. SNM–7007 authorizes TRISO–X to operate its facility as proposed in its license application and to possess and use SNM to manufacture HALEU fuel at the TRISO–X Fuel Fabrication Facility. The license authorizes TRISO–X to possess enriched uranium containing less than 20 weight percent uranium 235 for a license period of 40 years. TRISO–X is required to operate under the conditions listed in Materials License No. SNM–7007.

The NRC staff's ROD that supports issuance of Materials License No. SNM–7007 was published on February 13,

2026. The ROD satisfies the regulatory requirement in paragraph 51.102(a) of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), which requires that a Commission decision on any action for which a final environmental impact statement (EIS) has been prepared be accompanied by or include a concise public ROD. As discussed in the ROD, the final EIS for TRISO–X's license application for a fuel fabrication facility in Oak Ridge, Roane County, Tennessee was issued on February 12, 2026, and noticed in the **Federal Register** on February 13, 2026 (91 FR 6906).

The NRC staff prepared a final safety evaluation report that documents the staff's safety and security review of the application.

The staff's safety and security review found that the application meets applicable NRC regulations in 10 CFR part 70, ''Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material.'' Documents related to the application are available under Docket ID NRC–2022–0209. These documents for the TRISO–X license include the license application, the integrated safety analysis summary, emergency plan, fundamental nuclear material control plan, physical security plan, environmental report and the NRC staff's final safety evaluation report, final EIS, and ROD.

TRISO–X's request for a materials license, an opportunity to request a hearing and to petition for leave to intervene was previously noticed in the **Federal Register** on February 3, 2023 (88 FR 7473). No individuals filed petitions to intervene.

In issuing a materials license for the TRISO–X Fuel Fabrication Facility, the NRC determined based on its review of the application that there is reasonable assurance that: (i) the activities authorized by the license can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public; and (ii) these activities will be conducted in compliance with the applicable regulations of 10 CFR part 70. The NRC has further determined that the issuance of the license is not inimical to the common defense and security.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's ''Rules of Practice,'' the details with respect to this action, including the final safety evaluation report and accompanying documentation and license, are available electronically in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at *https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.* From this site, you can access ADAMS, which provides text and image files for the NRC public documents.

II. Availability of Documents

The documents identified in the following table are available through one or more of the following methods, as indicated.

Document description	ADAMS accession No.
Safety Review	
1. TRISO–X, LLC Fuel Fabrication Facility License Application Submittal, dated February 10, 2026	ML26040A336 (package).
2. TRISO–X, LLC—Submittal of Revisions to License Application Chapters and ISA Summary, dated February 6, 2026.	ML26037A266 (package).
3. Submittal of Revisions to Site Emergency Plan and Fundamental Nuclear Material Control Plan for the TRISO–X License Application, dated November 20, 2025.	ML25324A322.
4. Submittal of Revision 4 of the TRISO–X Fuel Fabrication Facility Physical Security Plan, dated January 31, 2025.	ML26057A196.
5. Financial Qualifications, dated April 5, 2022	ML22101A216.
Environmental Review	
6. Cover Letter and Supplemental Information for the TRISO–X Fuel Fabrication Facility License Application Review (Environmental), dated December 30, 2024.	ML24365A255.
7. Supplemental Information for the TRISO–X Fuel Fabrication Facility License Application Review (Environmental), dated January 31, 2025.	ML25031A449 (package).
8. TRISO–X, LLC, Supplemental Information for the TRISO–X Fuel Fabrication Facility License Application Review (Environmental), dated March 28, 2025.	ML25090A027 (package).
9. Response to Request for Additional Information for the TRISO–X Environmental Report Supplement, dated May 23, 2025.	ML25143A216 (package).
10. Response to Request for Additional Information Part 2 for the TRISO–X Environmental Report Supplement, dated June 11, 2025.	ML25162A265 (package).
11. TRISO–X Fuel Fabrication Facility Environmental Report (ER) Supplemental Information, dated January 28, 2026.	ML26029A128 (package).
NRC Findings	
12. NRC Approval of the TRISO–X License Application, dated February 13, 2026	ML25289A001 (package).
13. Environmental Impact Statement for the TRISO–X SNM License Application for a Fuel Fabrication Facility—Final Report, dated February 12, 2026.	ML26033A130.
14. ROD TRISO–X SNM License Application for a Fuel Fabrication Facility, dated February 13, 2026	ML26026A301.

Dated: March 12, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Tekia Govan,

Acting Chief, Fuel Facility Licensing Branch, Division of Fuel Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 2026–05086 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–613; NRC–2024–0078]

US SFR Owner, LLC; Kemmerer Power Station, Unit 1; Construction Permit and Record of Decision

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is providing notice of the issuance of Construction Permit (CP) No. CPAR–1 to US SFR Owner, LLC (USO) for the Kemmerer Power Station Unit 1 reactor facility and the associated record of decision (ROD).

DATES: The Construction Permit No. CPAR–1 was issued on March 9, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2024–0078 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and search for Docket ID NRC–2024–0078. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301–415–1003; email: *Bridget.curran@nrc.gov.* For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.
- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at *https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.* To begin the search, select ''Begin ADAMS Public Search.'' For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, at 301–415–4737, or by email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov.* For the convenience of the reader, instructions about obtaining materials referenced in this document are provided in the ''Availability of Documents'' section.
- *NRC's PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to *PDR.Resource@nrc.gov* or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mallecia Sutton, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–0673; email: *Mallecia.Sutton@nrc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

Under section 2.106 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), ''Notice of issuance,'' the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is providing notice of the issuance of Construction Permit (CP) No. CPAR–1 to US SFR Owner, LLC (USO) and issuance of the record of decision (ROD) under 10 CFR 51.102, ''Requirement to provide a record of decision; preparation.'' The CP, which is immediately effective, authorizes USO to construct a power reactor facility in Lincoln County, Wyoming, as described in the CP application. With respect to the CP application filed by TerraPower, LLC on behalf of USO, the NRC finds that the applicable standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the Commission's regulations have been met. The NRC finds that any required notifications to other agencies or bodies have been duly made and that, among other things, there is reasonable assurance that the activities authorized by the permit will be conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Commission, that safety questions will be satisfactorily resolved by the completion of construction, and that, taking into consideration siting criteria, the proposed facility can be constructed and operated at the proposed location without undue risk to public health and safety, subject to the conditions listed in the CP. Furthermore, the NRC finds that the licensee, USO, is technically and financially qualified to engage in the activities authorized, and that issuance of the CP will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public. Finally, the NRC finds that the findings required by subpart A, ''National Environmental Policy Act—Regulations Implementing Section 102(2)'' of 10 CFR part 51, ''Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions'' have been made.

Accordingly, the immediately effective CP was issued on March 9, 2026.

II. Further Information

The NRC staff prepared a Safety Evaluation (SE) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that document its evaluation of the CP application and its findings. The Commission also issued its Memorandum and Order documenting its final decision on the uncontested hearing on March 4, 2026, which serves as the ROD in this proceeding. The NRC staff also prepared a summary of the ROD that incorporates by reference the materials contained in the FEIS. In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, ''Public inspections, exemptions, requests for withholding,'' of the NRC's ''Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure,'' details with respect to this action, including the SE, FEIS, the summary of the ROD, and accompanying documentation included in the CP package, as well as the Commission's hearing decision, are available online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at *https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.* From this site, persons can access the NRC's ADAMS, which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents.

III. Availability of Documents

The documents identified in the following table are available to interested persons through ADAMS.

Document description	ADAMS Accession No.
Construction Permit No. CPAR–1	ML26034B247.
Commission Memorandum and Order (CLI-26-5) (Record of Decision)	ML26063A399.
Summary of the Record of Decision	ML26034C169.
Safety Evaluation Related to the US SFR Owner, LLC Construction Permit Application for Kemmerer Power Station Unit 1, November 2025.	ML25329A252.
NUREG–2268, ''Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction Permit Application for Kemmerer Power Station Unit 1'' October 2025.	ML25287A017.
USO Construction Permit Application Documentation	ML24088A059 (Package). ML25276A288. ML25276A027. ML25274A130. ML25274A123 (Package). ML25260A002. ML25259A180. ML25259A175. ML25253A386. ML25251A127. ML25205A087. ML25171A021.

Document description	ADAMS Accession No.
	ML25108A080. ML24253A220.

Dated: March 12, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Jonathan Greives,

Acting Director, Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power Production and Utilization Facilities, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 2026–05067 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. MC2026–171 and K2026–171]

New Postal Products

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing for the Commission's consideration concerning a negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* March 19, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at *https://www.prc.gov.* Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202–789–6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Introduction
II. Public Proceeding(s)
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I. Introduction

Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405, the Commission gives notice that the Postal Service filed request(s) for the Commission to consider matters related to Competitive negotiated service agreement(s). The request(s) may propose the addition of a negotiated service agreement from the Competitive product list or the modification of an existing product currently appearing on the Competitive product list.

The public portions of the Postal Service's request(s) can be accessed via the Commission's website (*http://www.prc.gov*). Non-public portions of the Postal Service's request(s), if any, can be accessed through compliance with the requirements of 39 CFR 3011.301.[1]

Section II identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, that will be reviewed in a public proceeding as defined by 39 CFR 3010.101(p), the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. For each such request, the Commission appoints an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in the proceeding, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505 and 39 CFR 3000.114 (Public Representative). The Public Representative does not represent any individual person, entity or particular point of view, and, when Commission attorneys are appointed, no attorney-client relationship is established. Section II also establishes comment deadline(s) pertaining to each such request.

The Commission invites comments on whether the Postal Service's request(s) identified in Section II, if any, are consistent with the policies of title 39. Applicable statutory and regulatory requirements include 39 U.S.C. 3632, 39 U.S.C. 3633, 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR part 3035, and 39 CFR part 3041. Comment deadline(s) for each such request, if any, appear in Section II.

Section III identifies the docket number(s) associated with each Postal Service request, if any, to add a standardized distinct product to the Competitive product list or to amend a standardized distinct product, the title of each such request, the request's acceptance date, and the authority cited by the Postal Service for each request. Standardized distinct products are negotiated service agreements that are variations of one or more Competitive products, and for which financial models, minimum rates, and classification criteria have undergone advance Commission review. *See* 39 CFR 3041.110(n); 39 CFR 3041.205(a). Such requests are reviewed in summary proceedings pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.325(c)(2) and 39 CFR 3041.505(f)(1). Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405(c)–(d), the Commission does not appoint a Public Representative or request public comment in proceedings to review such requests.

II. Public Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–171 and K2026–171; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 109 to Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* March 11, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.310; *Public Representative:* Katalin Clendenin; *Comments Due:* March 19, 2026.

[1] *See* Docket No. RM2018–3, Order Adopting Final Rules Relating to Non-Public Information, June 27, 2018, Attachment A at 19–22 (Order No. 4679).

III. Summary Proceeding(s)

None. See Section II for public proceedings.

This Notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Danielle LeFlore,

Alternate Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 2026–05066 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104968; File No. SR–NASDAQ–2026–004]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Designation of a Longer Period for Commission Action on a Proposed Rule Change To Adopt a New Continued Listing Requirement

March 11, 2026.

On January 13, 2026, The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (''Nasdaq'' or ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission''), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'')[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] a proposed rule change to adopt a new Market Value of Listed Securities continued listing requirement of at least $5 million. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on January 29, 2026.[3]

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act[4] provides that within 45 days of the publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change, or within such longer period up to 90 days as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission shall either approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved. The 45th day after publication of the notice for this proposed rule change is March 15, 2026. The Commission is extending this 45-day time period.

The Commission finds it appropriate to designate a longer period within which to take action on the proposed rule change so that it has sufficient time to consider the proposed rule change and the issues raised therein. Accordingly, the Commission, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,[5] designates April 29, 2026, as the date by which the Commission shall either approve or disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove, the proposed rule change (File No. SR–NASDAQ–2026–004).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[6]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05017 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104973; File No. SR–CFE–2026–002]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe Futures Exchange, LLC; Notice of a Filing of a Proposed Rule Change Regarding Exchange of Contract for Related Position and Block Trade Order Recordkeeping Requirements

March 11, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(7) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'' or ''Exchange Act''),[1] notice is hereby given that on March 3, 2026 Cboe Futures Exchange, LLC (''CFE'' or ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') the proposed rule change described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by CFE. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons. CFE also has filed this proposed rule change with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (''CFTC''). CFE filed a written certification with the CFTC under Section 5c(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act (''CEA'')[2] on March 2, 2026.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Description of the Proposed Rule Changes

CFE proposes to revise its recordkeeping requirements applicable to orders for Exchange of Contract for Related Position (''ERCP'')[3] transactions and Block Trades.[4] The scope of this filing is limited solely to the application of the proposed rule change to security futures that may be traded on CFE. Although no security futures are currently listed for trading on CFE, CFE may list security futures for trading in the future. The text of the proposed rule change is attached as Exhibit 4 to the filing but is not attached to the publication of this notice.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Changes

In its filing with the Commission, CFE included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. CFE has prepared summaries, set forth in Sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, Proposed Rule Changes

1. Purpose

CFE Rule 403 (Order Entry and Maintenance of Front-End Audit Trail) governs various aspects relating to orders in CFE products. Rule 403(h) includes recordkeeping requirements regarding orders received by a CFE Trading Privilege Holder (''TPH''), including its Authorized Traders, where those orders cannot be immediately entered into CFE's trading system (''CFE System''). For those orders, Rule 403(h) requires that a TPH, including its Authorized Traders, prepare an order form in a non-alterable written medium, which must be time-stamped and include the account designation, date,

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104688 (Jan. 26, 2026), 91 FR 3935. Comments received on the proposed rule change are available at *https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/public-comments/sr-nasdaq-2026-004*.

[4] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[5] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[6] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(31).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(7).

[2] 7 U.S.C. 7a–2(c).

[3] An ECRP transaction consists of a transaction in a Contract listed on CFE and a transaction in a related position that is negotiated off of CFE's trading facility and is then reported to CFE which meets the parameters for an ECRP transaction under CFE's rules. The related position must have a high degree of price correlation to the underlying of the Contract transaction so that the Contract transaction would serve as an appropriate hedge for the related position. In every ECRP transaction, one party is the buyer of (or the holder of the long market exposure associated with) the related position and the seller of the corresponding Contract and the other party is the seller of (or the holder of the short market exposure associated with) the related position and the buyer of the corresponding Contract.

[4] A Block Trade is a large transaction in a Contract listed on CFE that is negotiated off of CFE's trading facility and is then reported to CFE which meets the parameters for a Block Trade under CFE's rules.

and other required information. Rule 403(h) further requires that any such orders be entered into the CFE System as soon as they can be entered. Rule 403(h) is consistent with applicable recordkeeping requirements established by the CFTC Regulation 1.35 (Records of commodity interest and related cash or forward transactions),[5] and in particular, CFTC Regulation 1.35(b)(1).[6]

CFE Rule 414 (Exchange of Contract for Related Position) and CFE Rule 415 (Block Trades) govern ECRP transactions and Block Trades, respectively. Rules 414(g) and 415(e) currently require that each TPH that acts as an agent for an order involving an ECRP transaction or Block Trade record the following information in an order ticket (which in the case of an ECRP transaction is required to be recorded in relation to the Contract leg of the transaction, which is the CFE product leg of an ECRP transaction): (i) the Contract (including the expiration); (ii) the number of contracts traded; (iii) the price of execution or premium; (iv) the time of execution (*i.e.,* the time at which the parties agreed to the transaction); (v) the arrangement time, if any (*i.e.,* the time at which the parties agreed to enter into the transaction at a later time); (vi) the identity of the counterparty; (vii) that the transaction is an ECRP transaction or Block Trade; (viii) the account number of the Customer for which the transaction was executed; and (ix) the identity, quantity, and price or premium (including the expiration, strike price, type of option (put or call), and delta in the case of an option). These requirements are not specifically dictated by CFTC Regulation 1.35.[7]

Rule 415(s)(xiii) sets forth additional requirements relating to order tickets for Derived Block Trades which are also not specifically dictated by CFTC Regulation 1.35.[8] Specifically, Rule 415(s)(xiii) currently requires that each TPH that acts as an agent for an order involving a Derived Block Trade record the following details in an order ticket for the Derived Block Trade (in addition to the above details that are required to be included in an order ticket under Rule 415(e) for any Block Trade): (i) identification of the transaction as a Derived Block Trade; (ii) the product(s) in which the hedging transaction(s) by the Hedging Party relating to the Derived Block Trade took place; (iii) the start time and end time of the hedging transaction(s) by the Hedging Party relating to the Derived Block Trade; (iv) the execution methodology for the hedging transaction(s) by the Hedging Party relating to the Derived Block Trade (which may be Volume Weighted Average Price (''VWAP''), Time Weighted Average Price (''TWAP''), Percentage of Volume (''POV''), Limit Orders, or a description of any other execution methodology that was utilized); and (v) the methodology for calculating the price of the Derived Block Trade, including specification of the amount of any basis, ratio, or other value to be used in that calculation.

The proposed rule changes would delete the specific order ticket recordkeeping requirements for ECRP transactions set forth in Rule 414(g) and the specific order ticket recordkeeping requirements for Block Trades (including Derived Block Trades) set forth in Rules 415(e) and 415(s)(xiii).[9] Further, the proposed rule changes would add language to Rule 403(h) specifically stating that orders which cannot be immediately entered into the CFE system include, without limitation, ECRP transactions and Block Trades. As such, the order recordkeeping requirements set forth in Rule 403(h) would apply equally to ECRP transactions and Block Trades, instead of the order ticket requirements in Rule 414(g), 415(e), and 415(s)(xiii), which would be deleted.

The proposed rule change would also clarify what information must be included in an order form prepared by a TPH for an order, including an ECRP transaction or Block Trade, which cannot be immediately entered into the CFE System. Rule 403(h) currently states that such an order form must include ''the account designation, date and other required information.'' The proposed change would insert the phrase ''under Applicable Law'' after the preceding language in Rule 403(h) so that the language would read ''the account designation, date and other required information under Applicable Law'' [10] to further clarify what is meant by ''other required information'' that must be included in an order form. In particular, this language would encompass the requirements under CFTC Regulation 1.35 [11] which addresses, among other things, CFTC recordkeeping requirements relating to customer orders.

Additionally, the proposed rule change would revise Rule 403(h) in order to clarify that only orders that can eventually be entered into the CFE System must be entered into the CFE System in the order they were received as soon as they can be entered into the CFE System. Orders for ECRP transactions and Block Trades are not required to be entered into the CFE System since these orders are for off-exchange transactions that are agreed upon off of CFE's trading facility and since these orders are not executed by the CFE System. Instead, after an ECRP transaction or Block Trade is agreed upon by the parties to the transaction, the terms of the agreed-upon transaction are reported to the CFE System.

Neither the CEA nor CFTC regulations include specific order ticket recordkeeping requirements for ECRP transactions or Block Trades beyond the requirement set forth in CFTC Regulation 1.38 (Execution of Transactions) [12] that orders, records, and memoranda pertaining to trades not competitively executed, which includes ECRP transactions and Block Trades, be appropriately marked as such. Rather, the general recordkeeping requirements relating to orders set forth in CFTC Regulation 1.35 [13] apply to ECRP transactions and Block Trades.

CFE's rules, as proposed to be amended, would continue to require TPHs and their Authorized Traders to keep records regarding orders in compliance with Applicable Law, as defined in the CFE Rulebook, which includes the CEA and CFTC regulations as well as, to the extent applicable, the Exchange Act and Exchange Act Regulations. The proposed rule change would simply remove specific additional prescriptive internal recordkeeping requirements for TPHs with respect to orders for ECRP transactions and Block Trades that are not required by Applicable Law. Notably, the proposed rule change does not affect the portions of Rules 414(g) and 415(e) that require every TPH handling, executing, clearing, or carrying ECRP transactions or Block Trades, respectively, to identify and mark all orders, records, and memoranda pertaining to those

[5] 17 CFR 1.35.

[6] 17 CFR 1.35(b)(1).

[7] 17 CFR 1.35(b).

[8] A Derived Block Trade is a Block Trade in which the trade price and contract quantity of the Block Trade are dependent upon one or more hedging transactions conducted by one of the parties to the Block Trade referred to as a Hedging Party that take place after the Block Trade has been consummated between the parties but prior to the submission of the Block Trade to the Exchange.

[9] While the proposed rule changes would delete portions of Rule 414(g), 415(e), and 415(s)(xiii), other portions of those provisions would be retained. *See, infra,* footnotes 15–17.

[10] Applicable Law is defined in Chapter 1 of the CFE Rulebook (Definitions) and includes, but is not limited to, the CEA, CFTC Regulations, margin rules adopted by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (as amended from time to time) and, to the extent applicable, the Exchange Act and Exchange Act Regulations.

[11] 17 CFR 1.35.

[12] 17 CFR 1.38.

[13] 17 CFR 1.35.

transactions as such with an appropriate symbol or designation consistent with CFTC Regulation 1.38.[14]

The proposed rule change would alter only internal order recordkeeping requirements for TPHs and their Authorized Traders with respect to ECRP transactions and Block Trades. The proposed rule change would not change any other Exchange rules regarding ECRP transactions or Block Trades. Accordingly, TPHs will continue to be required to report to the Exchange through their Authorized Reporters, among other information, the same type of information that is identified in current Rules 414(g), 415(e), and 415(s)(xiii) as is currently required to be included in an order ticket for an ECRP transaction or Block Trade. Notably, CFE's requirements for reporting ECRP transactions and Block Trades (including Derived Block Trades) to the Exchange, which are set forth in CFE Rule 414(k),[15] CFE Rule 415(h),[16] and 415(s)(xiii),[17] respectively, are unaffected and encompass the information currently required to be captured in an order ticket for an ECRP transaction or Block Trade.

Unlike an order ticket, which a TPH creates and maintains in its own records, the Exchange receives the information currently required under Rules 414(g), 415(e), and 415(s)(xiii) to be included in an order ticket for an ECRP transaction or Block Trade directly through the reporting process to the Exchange for an ECRP transaction or a Block Trade, and this information becomes part of the records of the Exchange. As such, the proposed rule change would not alter the information received by the Exchange or the Exchange's internal records with respect to ECRP transactions and Block Trades and would not alter the information immediately available to the Exchange in performing its self-regulatory functions.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,[18] in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(1)[19] and 6(b)(5)[20] in particular, in that it is designed:

- to enable the Exchange to enforce compliance by its TPHs and persons associated with its TPHs with the provisions of the rules of the Exchange,
- to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices,
- to promote just and equitable principles of trade,
- to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system,
- and in general, to protect investors and the public interest.

The proposed rule change would clarify and simplify the recordkeeping requirements with respect to orders for ECRP transactions and Block Trades and align them with applicable legal requirements. More specifically, the proposed rule change would consolidate recordkeeping requirements specifically applicable to orders which cannot be immediately entered into the CFE System, which include orders for ECRP transactions and Block Trades, in Rule 403(h). The Exchange believes that consolidating and simplifying these order recordkeeping requirements will make it easier for TPHs and their Authorized Traders to comply with them. Accordingly, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change facilitates compliance with Exchange rules.

Notably, the proposed rule change would only affect the internal recordkeeping of TPHs. The proposed rule change would not affect any other requirements related to ECRP transactions or Block Trades and therefore would not impact the likelihood of fraudulent or manipulative trading on the Exchange or impact the Exchange's ability to promote just and equitable trading.

In particular, the proposed changes would not affect the information submitted to the Exchange regarding ECRP transactions or Block Trades. The requirements for submission of information to the Exchange regarding ERCP transactions and Block Trades are set forth CFE Rules 414(k), 415(h), and 415(s)(xiii), respectively, and these requirements would not be amended by the proposed changes. This information includes, among other information, the same type of information that is identified in current Rules 414(g), 415(e), and 415(s)(xiii) as currently required to be included in an order ticket for an ECRP transaction or Block Trade. As such, the proposed changes would not impact the Exchange's internal records regarding ECRP transactions and Block Trades and would not impact the Exchange's ability to carry out its responsibilities as a self-regulatory organization. The Exchange would receive the same information regarding ECRP transactions and Block Trades that it currently receives and could continue to use this information to prevent fraudulent and manipulative trading practices.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

CFE does not believe that the proposed rule change would impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Specifically, the Exchange believes that the proposed rule change would not burden intra-market competition because the proposed rule updates would apply equally to all TPHs. The Exchange also

[14] 17 CFR 1.38.

[15] Rule 414(k) requires that the notification to the Exchange of an ECRP transaction shall include (i) whether the component of the transaction in the Contract listed on the Exchange is a single leg transaction, a transaction in a spread or transaction in a strip; (ii) the Contract identifier (or product and contract expiration for a future or product, expiration, strike price and type of option (put or call) in the case of an option), price (or premium for an option) and quantity of the relevant Contract leg of the transaction and whether the relevant Contract leg is buy or sell; (iii) the time of execution (*i.e.,* the time at which the parties agreed to the transaction); (iv) the arrangement time, if any (*i.e.,* the time at which the parties agreed to enter into the transaction at a later time); (v) Order Entry Operator ID; (vi) EFID; (vii) account; (viii) Clearing House origin code (C for Customer or F for Firm); (ix) Customer Type Indicator code; (x) the identity, quantity and price or premium of the Related Position (including the expiration, strike price, type of option (put or call) and delta in the case of an option); and (xi) any other information required by the Exchange.

[16] Rule 415(h) requires that the notification to the Exchange of a Block Trade shall include (i) whether the Block Trade is a single leg transaction, a transaction in a spread, or a transaction in a strip; (ii) the Contract identifier (or product and contract expiration for a future or product, expiration, strike price, and type of option (put or call) in the case of an option), price (or premium for an option) and quantity of the Block Trade and whether the Block Trade is buy or sell; (iii) the time of execution (*i.e.,* the time at which the parties agreed to the transaction); (iv) the arrangement time, if any (*i.e.,* the time at which the parties agreed to enter into the transaction at a later time); (v) Order Entry Operator ID; (vi) executing firm ID (''EFID''); (vii) account; (viii) Clearing Corporation origin code; (ix) Customer Type Indicator code; and (x) any other information required by the Exchange. Additionally, among the other information that the Exchange requires be included as part of the notification to the Exchange of a Block Trade under Rule 415(h) is the identity of the counterparty.

[17] Rule 415(s)(xiii) requires that the notification to the Exchange of a Derived Block Trade include the following information (in addition to the above information that is required to be provided to the Exchange under Rule 415(h) for any Block Trade): (i) identification of the transaction as a Derived Block Trade; (ii) the product(s) in which the hedging transaction(s) by the Hedging Party relating to the Derived Block Trade took place; (iii) the start time and end time of the hedging transaction(s) by the Hedging Party relating to the Derived Block Trade; (iv) the execution methodology for the hedging transaction(s) by the Hedging Party relating to the Derived Block Trade (which may be VWAP, TWAP, POV, Limit Orders, or a description of any other execution methodology that was utilized); and (v) the methodology for calculating the price of the Derived Block Trade, including specification of the amount of any basis, ratio, or other value to be used in that calculation.

[18] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

[19] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(1).

[20] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

believes that the proposed rule change would not burden inter-market competition because the Exchange will continue to apply the order entry recordkeeping requirements set forth by Applicable Law, in particular the requirements under CFTC Regulations 1.35 [21] and 1.38,[22] and the proposed rule change would not alter any other requirements relating to ECRP transactions and Block Trades.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The proposed rule change will become operative on March 16, 2026. At any time within 60 days of the date of effectiveness of the proposed rule change, the Commission, after consultation with the CFTC, may summarily abrogate the proposed rule change and require that the proposed rule change be refiled in accordance with the provisions of Section 19(b)(1) of the Act.[23]

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov*. Please include file number SR–CFE–2026–002 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to File Number SR–CFE–2026–002. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (*http://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to File Number SR–CFE–2026–002, and should be submitted on or before April 6, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[24]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05016 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

[21] 17 CFR 1.35.

[22] 17 CFR 1.38.

[23] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[24] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(73).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104976; File No. SR–24X–2026–06]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; 24X National Exchange LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Transaction Rebates Applicable to Members of the Exchange

March 11, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act''),[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] notice is hereby given that on February 26, 2026, 24X National Exchange LLC (''24X'' or the ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the ''Commission'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the self-regulatory organization. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the transaction rebates applicable to Members [3] of the Exchange pursuant to Exchange Rule 15.1(a) and (c). The proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at *https://equities.24exchange.com/regulation* and at the principal office of the Exchange.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the self-regulatory organization included statements concerning the purpose of, and basis for, the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of those statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant parts of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend the transaction rebates applicable to Members of the Exchange. Specifically, the Exchange proposes the following: (i) to increase the rebate for executions of orders that that are displayed on the 24X Book [4] and add liquidity to the Exchange (''Added Displayed Volume'') in all securities traded on the Exchange priced at or above $1.00 per share from $0.00295 per share to $0.0034 per share, and (ii) to decrease the rebate for executions of orders that are not displayed on the 24X Book, add liquidity to the Exchange, and include a Midpoint Peg instruction (''Added Midpoint'') in all securities traded on the Exchange priced at or above $1.00 per share from $0.00295 per share to $0.0025 per share, and in all securities traded on the Exchange priced below $1.00 per share from 0.075% of total dollar value to 0.065% of total dollar value.

The proposed increased rebate for Added Displayed Volume transactions and decreased rebates for Added Midpoint transactions are consistent with or higher than the rebates provided by other exchanges for similar executions,[5] and are intended to

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] *See* Exchange Rule 1.5(u).

[4] ''24X Book'' refers to the Exchange system's electronic file of orders. *See* Exchange Rule 1.5(a).

[5] *See* Cboe EDGA Exchange, Inc. (''Cboe EDGA'') fee schedule, available at: *https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/membership/fee_schedule/edga/;* MIAX PEARL, LLC (''MIAX Pearl'') fee schedule, available at: *https://www.miaxglobal.com/sites/default/files/fee_schedule-files/MIAX_Pearl_Equities_Fee_Schedule_08012025.pdf;* and NYSE Texas, Inc. (''NYSE Texas'') fee schedule, available at: *https://www.nyse.com/publicdocs/nyse/markets/nyse-texas/NYSE_Texas_Fee_Schedule.pdf;* MEMX LLC (''MEMX'') fee schedule, available at: *https://*

incentivize Members to increase the liquidity-providing orders they submit to the Exchange, which would support price discovery on the Exchange and provide additional liquidity for incoming orders.

The proposed rule change does not include different rebates depending on the number of orders submitted to, or transactions executed on or through, the Exchange. Accordingly, the rebates described above are applicable to all Members, regardless of the overall volume of a Member's trading activities on the Exchange.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with the provisions of Section 6(b) [6] of the Act in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) [7] of the Act in particular, in that it is designed to provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities. Additionally, the Exchange believes that the proposed amended rebates are consistent with the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) [8] of the Act in that they are designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest, and, particularly, are not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. The Exchange believes that the proposed amended rebates reflect a simple and competitive pricing structure designed to incentivize market participants to add aggressively priced displayed liquidity and direct their order flow to the Exchange, which the Exchange believes would promote price discovery and price formation and deepen liquidity that is subject to the Exchange's transparency, regulation, and oversight as an exchange, thereby enhancing market quality to the benefit of all Members and investors.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues, and also recognized that current regulation of the market system ''has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.'' [9]

As illustrated in the following table, the Exchange notes that the proposed amended rebates are comparable to those in place on other exchanges: [10]

Exchange	Rebate for added displayed volume ≥$1.00	Rebate for added midpoint ≥$1.00	Rebate for added midpoint <$1.00
24X	($0.0034)	($0.0025)	(0.065% of total dollar value).
Cboe EDGA	(0.0027)	(0.0025)	(0.15% of total dollar value).
MIAX Pearl	(0.00335)	(0.0029)	(0.15% of total dollar value).
NYSE Texas	(0.0029)	(0.0014)	(0.10% of total dollar value).
MEMX	(0.0033)	(0.0028)	(0.15% of total dollar value).

The Exchange believes that it is appropriate, reasonable, and consistent with the Act to provide a rebate of $0.0034 for Added Displayed Volume transactions because it is comparable to the transaction rebates provided by other exchanges for similar transactions.[11] The Exchange further believes that this rebate is equitably allocated and not unfairly discriminatory because it applies equally to all Members, and is designed to facilitate increased activity on the Exchange to the benefit of all Members by providing more trading opportunities and promoting price discovery.

The Exchange believes that it is appropriate, reasonable, and consistent with the Act to provide a rebate of $0.0025 for Added Midpoint transactions in securities priced at or above $1.00 per share and a rebate of 0.065% of total dollar value for Added Midpoint transactions in securities priced below $1.00 per share because those rebates are also comparable to rebates provided by other exchanges for similar transactions.[12] The Exchange further believes that this rebate structure is equitably allocated and not unfairly discriminatory because it applies equally to all Members.

The Exchange notes that under the proposed amended rebate structure, it will pay a greater rebate for Added Displayed Volume than the fee it charges for removing such volume, and as such the Exchange will have negative net capture with respect to such transactions. As noted above, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market, and the Exchange believes this pricing structure will enable it to effectively compete with other exchanges by attracting Members and order flow to the Exchange, which will help the Exchange to gain market share for executions. The Exchange may determine to modify its pricing structure after it has gained sufficient participation from market participants to instead be profitable with respect to such transactions. The Exchange believes this pricing structure, including the negative net capture for Added Displayed Volume transactions, is designed to incentivize market participants to add aggressively priced displayed liquidity and direct their order flow to the Exchange, which the Exchange believes would promote price discovery, price formation, and narrower spreads, and deepen liquidity that is subject to the Exchange's transparency, regulation, and oversight as an exchange, thereby enhancing market quality to the benefit of all Members and investors. The Exchange does not believe that the negative net capture with respect to Added Displayed Volume transactions will materially impact the capitalization of

info.memxtrading.com/equities-trading-resources/us-equities-fee-schedule/.

[6] 15 U.S.C. 78f.

[7] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

[8] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[9] Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005) (''Regulation NMS Adopting Release'').

[10] *See supra* note 6. If a particular exchange provides different rebates depending on transaction volume, the highest available rebate is included in the above table.

[11] *Id.*

[12] *Id.*

the Exchange or otherwise impair the Exchange's ability to operate or regulate itself. The Exchange is well-capitalized and the Exchange's parent company, 24X US Holdings LLC, has agreed to provide adequate funding for the Exchange's operations, including the regulation of the Exchange.

In conclusion, the Exchange submits that its proposed amended rebate structure satisfies the requirements of Sections 6(b)(4) [13] and 6(b)(5) [14] of the Act for the reasons discussed above in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities, does not permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers, and is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system and in general to protect investors and the public interest, particularly as the proposal neither targets nor will it have a disparate impact on any particular category of market participant. As described more fully below in the Exchange's statement regarding the burden on competition, the Exchange is subject to significant competitive forces, and believes that its proposed amended rebate structure is an appropriate effort to address such forces.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will result in any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Rather, as discussed above, the Exchange believes that the proposed changes would encourage the submission of order flow to a public exchange, thereby promoting market depth, execution incentives, and enhanced execution opportunities, as well as price discovery and transparency for all Members. As a result, the Exchange believes that the proposed changes further the Commission's goal in adopting Regulation NMS of fostering competition among orders, which promotes ''more efficient pricing of individual stocks for all types of orders, large and small.'' [15]

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. To the contrary, the Exchange believes that the proposed amended pricing structure will increase competition and is intended to draw volume to the Exchange. The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow or reduce use of certain categories of products in response to new or different pricing structures being introduced into the market. Accordingly, competitive forces constrain the Exchange's transaction fees and rebates, and market participants can readily trade on competing venues if they deem pricing levels at those other venues to be more favorable. As a new exchange, the Exchange faces intense competition from existing exchanges and other non-exchange venues that provide markets for equities trading. With respect to the Exchange's proposal to operate with negative net capture for transactions involving Added Displayed Volume, the Exchange is proposing this pricing in an effort to encourage market participants to join, connect to, and participate on the Exchange. The Exchange may modify its pricing structure after it has gained sufficient participation from market participants to eliminate the negative net capture and instead be profitable with respect to such transactions.

Although these pricing incentives are intended to attract liquidity to the Exchange, most other exchanges in operation today already offer multiple incentives to their participants, including tiered pricing that provides higher rebates or discounted executions, and other exchanges will be able to modify such incentives in order to compete with the Exchange. As discussed above, the Exchange notes that the proposed amended rebates are comparable to those in place on other exchanges. Accordingly, with respect to a market participant deciding to submit an order to add liquidity, there are multiple exchanges that will continue to be competitively priced for such orders when compared to the Exchange's pricing. Further, while pricing incentives do cause shifts of liquidity between trading centers, market participants make determinations on where to provide liquidity or route orders to take liquidity based on factors other than pricing, including technology, functionality, and other considerations. Consequently, the Exchange believes that the degree to which its proposed amended rebates could impose any burden on competition is extremely limited, and does not believe that such pricing structure would burden competition of Members or competing venues in a manner that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because the proposed amended rebates apply equally to all Members. The proposed pricing structure is intended to encourage market participants to add displayed liquidity on the Exchange by providing rebates that are comparable to those offered by other exchanges, which the Exchange believes will help to encourage Members to send orders to the Exchange to the benefit of all Exchange participants. As the proposed rates are equally applicable to all market participants, the Exchange does not believe there is any burden on intramarket competition.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received with respect to the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) [16] of the Act and subparagraph (f)(2) of Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[17] because it establishes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by the Exchange. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings under Section 19(b)(2)(B) [18] of the Act to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule

[13] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

[14] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[15] Regulation NMS Adopting Release at 37499.

[16] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

[17] 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(2).

[18] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)–(2)(B).

change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov.* Please include file number SR–24X–2026–06 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–24X–2026–06. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–24X–2026–06 and should be submitted on or before April 6, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[19]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05012 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104967; File No. SR–SAPPHIRE–2026–09]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; MIAX Sapphire, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the MIAX Sapphire Fee Schedule Non-Transaction Fee Waivers

March 11, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'' or ''Exchange Act'')[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] notice is hereby given that on February 27, 2026, MIAX Sapphire, LLC (''MIAX Sapphire'' or ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') a proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange is filing a proposal to amend the MIAX Sapphire Options Exchange Fee Schedule (the ''Fee Schedule'') to update certain non-transaction fee waivers and remove text regarding fee waivers that are set to expire at the end of February 2026.

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at *https://www.miaxglobal.com/markets/us-options/all-options-exchanges/rule-filings,* and at MIAX Sapphire's principal office.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange commenced Trading Floor[3] operations in September 2025.[4] Ahead of the launch of the Trading Floor for equity options trading, the Exchange filed to amend the Fee Schedule to establish Section 9, Trading Floor Non-Transaction Fees, and the following subsections, including fee structures and amounts: (1) one-time application and initiation fees; (2) participant fees; (3) Trading Permit[5] fees; (4) desk and badge fees; (5) remote services fees; (6) shipping and storage fee; and (7) data center hosting fees.[6] In that filing, the Exchange waived certain non-transaction fees for the Initial Waiver Period[7] in order to attract Trading Floor membership and compete for order flow. In particular, the Exchange waived the following fees for the Initial Waiver Period: (1) one-time application and initiation fees; (2) participant fees; (3) desk and badge fees; and (4) data center hosting fees.[8] The Exchange also waived Trading Permit fees for each Floor Broker[9] (on per-firm basis) or Floor Market Maker[10] that executed at least 100 contracts average daily volume (''ADV'') in Qualified Floor Orders (''QFOs'')[11] and Complex Qualified Floor Orders (''cQFOs'')[12] in each relevant month throughout September, October, November and December 2025, and January and February 2026.[13] Since the Exchange launched Trading Floor operations in mid-September 2025, the Initial Waiver Period is set to automatically expire at the end of February 2026 (*i.e.,* the initial

[19] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] The terms ''Trading Floor'' or ''Floor'' means the physical trading floor of the Exchange located in Miami, Florida. The Trading Floor shall consist of one ''Crowd Area'' or ''Pit'' where Floor Participants will be located and option contracts will be traded. The Crowd Area or Pit shall be marked with specific visible boundaries on the Trading Floor, as determined by the Exchange. A Floor Broker must represent all orders in an ''open outcry'' fashion in the Crowd Area. *See* the Definitions section of the Fee Schedule and Exchange Rule 100.

[4] *See* News Alert, MIAX Sapphire, Miami International Holdings Launches Next-Generation Options Trading Floor in Miami, dated September 16, 2025, *available at https://www.miaxglobal.com/alert/2025/09/16/miami-international-holdings-launches-next-generation-options-trading-floor.*

[5] The term ''Trading Permit'' means a permit issued by the Exchange that confers the ability to transact on the Exchange. *See* Exchange Rule 100.

[6] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104002 (September 18, 2025), 90 FR 45840 (September 23, 2025) (SR–SAPPHIRE–2025–37).

[7] The term ''Initial Waiver Period'' means, for each applicable fee, the period of time from the initial effectiveness of the fee for the remainder of the partial month once the Trading Floor begins to operate, plus an additional five (5) full calendar months after the completion of the partial month, if applicable, of the launch of Trading Floor operations. *See* the Definitions section of the Fee Schedule.

[8] *See supra* note 6.

[9] A Floor Broker is an individual who is registered with the Exchange for the purpose, while on the Trading/Floor, of accepting and handling options orders. A Floor Broker must be registered as a Floor Participant prior to registering as a Floor Broker. A Floor Broker may take into his own account, and subsequently liquidate, any position that results from an error made while attempting to execute, as Floor Broker, an order. *See* Exchange Rule 2015.

[10] A Floor Market Maker is a Floor Participant of the Exchange located on the Trading Floor who has received permission from the Exchange to trade in options for his own account. *See* Exchange Rule 2105(b).

[11] *See* Exchange Rule 2040.

[12] *See id.*

[13] *See supra* note 6.

effectiveness of the fees, which were filed mid-September,[14] plus five full calendar months thereafter). The Exchange now proposes to amend the Fee Schedule to update certain Trading Floor non-transaction fee waivers and remove text regarding the Initial Waiver Period, which is set to automatically expire at the end of February 2026.

Definitions Section

First, the Exchange proposes to amend the Definitions section of the Fee Schedule to delete the term ''Initial Waiver Period'' as the Initial Waiver Period is set to automatically expire at the end of February 2026. Pursuant to this filing, the Exchange plans to update certain non-transaction fee waivers with respect to certain Floor Participants; [15] however, the nature and extent of the proposed fee waivers will vary by the type of fee and type of member. The Exchange will identify the updated fee waiver, if applicable, in each relevant section of the Fee Schedule. Accordingly, the Exchange proposes to delete the term ''Initial Waiver Period'' from the Definitions section of the Fee Schedule to provide clarity to market participants that effective March 1, 2026, that particular fee waiver expired and certain Trading Floor non-transaction fees will now be assessed as originally provided for in the Exchange's initial non-transaction fee filing.[16]

Application and Initiation Fee (One-Time)

Next, the Exchange proposes to amend Section 9)a) of the Fee Schedule to update the fee waiver for the one-time application and initiation fee. The one-time application and initiation fee for Floor Brokers and Floor Market Makers was waived for the Initial Waiver Period. The Exchange now proposes to remove the reference to Initial Waiver Period and insert text to specify that the one-time application and initiation fee will be waived for new Floor Broker applications beginning March 1, 2026. Since the application and initiation fee will be assessed on an individual basis (*i.e.,* per Floor Broker or per Floor Market Maker), firms that already have active Floor Brokers on the Trading Floor. With the proposed changes, all new Floor Market Maker applications will be assessed the $2,000 one-time application and initiation fee as stated in the Fee Schedule, *i.e.,* on the earlier of (i) the date the applicant is certified in the membership system, (ii) provided access to the Trading Floor and/or Trading Floor data center, or (iii) once an application for Trading Floor membership is finally denied.[17]

The purpose of waiving this fee for all new Floor Broker applications is to continue to provide an incentive for market participants interested in becoming Floor Brokers to submit applications and become Floor Brokers sooner, which may result in increased order flow and liquidity to the benefit of all Floor Participants. Since the Exchange launched Trading Floor operations, all current Floor Broker and Floor Market Maker application and initiation fees were waived. Waiving certain fees is how exchanges have historically attracted membership and competed for order flow soon after launching operations.[18] Even though the Exchange proposes to waive these particular one-time fees for new Floor Broker applications, the overall structure of the fee and amount is already outlined in the Fee Schedule so that there is general awareness that the Exchange intends to assess such fees for Floor Broker applications in the future.

Participant Fees

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 9)b) of the Fee Schedule to update the fee waiver for participant fees. The participant fee for Floor Brokers (to be assessed on a per-firm basis) and Floor Market Makers (to be assessed on a per-firm basis) was waived for the Initial Waiver Period. The Exchange now proposes to remove the reference to Initial Waiver Period and insert text to specify that for new Floor Brokers (per firm), the participant fee will be waived for the partial month plus an additional three (3) full calendar months thereafter once the Floor Broker maintains a physical presence on the Trading Floor. With the proposed changes, current firms with Floor Brokers or Floor Market Makers will begin being assessed the monthly fee of $1,250.00 (on a per-firm basis) effective for March 2026.[19] As proposed, any new firms that do not have a registered Floor Broker on the Trading Floor will have their participant fee waived for the initial month plus three (3) full calendar months thereafter once the Floor Broker maintains a physical presence on the Trading Floor. Any new Floor Market Makers (firm) that become registered as such after March 1, 2026 will be assessed the monthly participant fee of $1,250.00 (on a per-firm basis).

The purpose of waiving this fee for all new firms that register and have Floor Brokers with an active presence on the Trading Floor is to continue to provide an incentive for market participants interested in becoming Floor Brokers to submit applications and begin Floor Broker operations, which may result in increased order flow and liquidity to the benefit of all Floor Participants. Since the Exchange launched Trading Floor operations, all current firms with Floor Brokers or Floor Market Makers had their monthly participant fees waived. Waiving certain fees is how exchanges have historically attracted membership and competed for order flow soon after launching operations.[20] Even though the Exchange proposes to waive these particular fees for new firms that register Floor Brokers, the overall structure of the fees and amounts is already outlined in the Fee Schedule so that there is general awareness that the Exchange will assess such fees to Floor Brokers (on a per-firm basis) upon the expiration of the defined term of this particular fee waiver, which is based upon the date that a new firm has a Floor Broker with a physical presence on the Trading Floor.

Trading Permit Fees

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 9)c) of the Fee Schedule to update the fee waiver for Trading Permit fees. Since the Exchange launched Trading Floor operations, the monthly Trading Permit fees for Floor Brokers (on a per-firm basis) and Floor Market Makers were waived if the Floor Broker (per firm) or Floor Market Maker

[14] *See supra* note 6.

[15] The term ''Floor Participant'' means Floor Brokers as defined in Rule 2015 and Floor Market Makers as defined in Rule 2105(b). *See* Exchange Rule 100.

[16] *See supra* note 6.

[17] *See* Fee Schedule, Section 9)a).

[18] *See, e.g.,* Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 104002 (September 18, 2025), 90 FR 45840 (September 23, 2025) (SR–SAPPHIRE–2025–37) (waiving application and initiation fees, participant fees, trading permit fees, desk and badge fees, and data center hosting fees for an initial waiver period in order to attract membership and order flow upon launching trading floor operations); 100752 (August 16, 2024), 89 FR 67986 (August 22, 2024) (SR–SAPPHIRE–2024–20) (waiving one-time membership application fees, among others, for the Exchange's electronic equity options trading platform for an initial waiver period in order to attract membership and order flow upon launching operations); 85393 (March 21, 2019), 84 FR 11599 (March 27, 2019) (SR–EMERALD–2019–15) (waiving one-time membership application fees, trading permit fees, and testing and certification fees, among others, for an initial waiver period in order to attract membership and order flow upon launching operations); *and* 97893 (July 13, 2023), 88 FR 46285 (July 19, 2023) (SR–MEMX–2023–13) (waiving membership fees for an initial waiver period of approximately six months upon launch of MEMX's options exchange).

[19] *See* Fee Schedule, Section 9)b).

[20] *See supra* note 18.

executed at least 100 contracts ADV in QFOs or cQFOs, as the case may be, in each relevant month throughout September, October, November and December 2025, as well as January and February 2026.

The Exchange now proposes to remove the references to Initial Waiver Period, the text regarding certain months in 2025 and 2026, and Floor Market Maker fee waivers and insert text to specify that for registered Floor Brokers as of February 28, 2026, the monthly Trading Permit fee will be waived if the Floor Broker (per firm) executes at least 100 contracts ADV in QFOs or cQFOs in each relevant month thereafter, with no defined sunset for this particular fee waiver. The purpose of this conditional fee waiver is to continue to provide a low enough volume threshold that most, if not all, current Floor Brokers should be able to achieve in order to have their Trading Permit fees waived, while also promoting order flow and liquidity as the Trading Floor operations continue to ramp up. Further, as proposed, for new firms that register Floor Brokers beginning March 1, 2026 or later, the monthly Trading Permit fee will be waived for the initial partial month the Floor Broker becomes registered with the Exchange and the three (3) full calendar months thereafter, with no volume requirement attached to the fee waiver for new Floor Brokers during that period but will be subject to the condition fee waiver afterward (*i.e.,* 100 contracts ADV). The purpose of this proposal is to incentivize market participants that are not Floor Participants to apply and become registered with the Exchange and begin Floor Broker operations, which should promote additional order flow and liquidity, benefiting all current Floor Participants. With the proposed changes, all new and current Floor Market Makers (on an individual basis) will be assessed the $5,350.00 monthly Trading Permit fee as stated in the Fee Schedule.[21]

Waiving certain fees is how exchanges have historically attracted membership and competed for order flow soon after launching operations.[22] The Exchange also believes that incentivizing order flow for certain market participants, like Floor Brokers, to reduce certain membership or trading permit fees, is historically how other exchanges have competed.[23] Even though the Exchange proposes to waive these particular fees if a current Floor Broker achieves a certain ADV in the relevant month, as well as for new Floor Brokers regardless of ADV, the Exchange believes that it is appropriate to provide market participants with the overall structure of the fees by outlining the structure and amounts in the Fee Schedule so that there is general awareness that the Exchange intends to assess such fees if the threshold is not met for current Floor Brokers, as well as in the future for new firms with Floor Brokers upon the expiration of defined term of this particular fee waiver, which is based upon the date that the new Floor Broker becomes registered with the Exchange.

The Exchange also proposes to amend Section 9)c) of the Fee Schedule to establish a fee for Floor Market Maker Alternates. A Floor Market Maker Alternate is a type of permit that an applicant firm may apply for when applying to become a Floor Participant.[24] The Floor Market Maker Alternate allows that designated individual to fill in for the primary Floor Market Maker of the same firm when the primary Floor Market Maker is not active on the Trading Floor on a particular trading day or number of trading days. For example, if the primary Floor Market Maker is away on vacation or out of office due to illness, the Floor Market Maker Alternate would be able to substitute in for that primary Floor Market Maker and carry out its duties without incurring the monthly Trading Permit fee, desk fee or an additional badge fee. In particular, the Exchange proposes to assess a monthly fee of $500.00 per designated Floor Market Maker Alternate for firms that register and designate Floor Market Maker Alternates on the MIAX Sapphire Options Exchange Floor Participant Application. The Exchange proposes to describe this fee under the Trading Permit fee table in Section 9)c) of the Fee Schedule. The purpose of this fee is to provide firms with a convenient means to substitute Floor Market Makers where the primary individual is unable to be active on the Trading Floor for any number of reasons, while balancing the interests of the Exchange to ensure that all active trading personnel are properly accounted for on each trading day. The Exchange notes that other exchanges with trading floors provide for similar fees for ''inactive'' or ''reserve'' participants.[25] Although the Exchange's proposed monthly fee for Floor Market Maker Alternates appears to be higher than the similar fee charged by PHLX or NYSE American, the Exchange will not impose additional charges for a desk or badge for Floor Market Maker Alternates.

Desk and Badge Fees

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 9)d) of the Fee Schedule to remove text regarding the Initial Waiver Period. Currently, all registered on-Floor persons (*i.e.,* Clerks[26]) employed by or associated with a Floor Market Maker or Floor Broker Maker must have a desk and badge.[27] The Exchange waived desk and badge fees for Trading Floor participants for the Initial Waiver Period.[28] The Exchange now proposes to remove the reference to the Initial Waiver Period as the Initial Waiver Period is set to automatically expire at the end of February 2026. The Exchange originally waived these fees to encourage prospective Floor Participants to complete all necessary on-boarding requirements as close as possible to the launch of the Trading Floor (or sooner), which included selecting desk space, registering all on-Floor personnel and acquiring badges.

[21] *See* Fee Schedule, Section 9)c). As discussed in the Exchange's prior filing, the Exchange determined to charge Floor Brokers on a per firm basis but not Floor Market Makers because the Trading Floor is not an unlimited space. Each on-Floor person is required to have a desk, which physically takes up space. The Exchange determined to charge Floor Brokers on a per firm basis and allocate more space for Floor Brokers to encourage Floor Brokers to bring QFO and cQFO volume to the Trading Floor. The Exchange continues to believe this will encourage the role performed by Floor Brokers in facilitating the execution of orders on the Trading Floor, a function that the Exchange wishes to support for the benefit of all market participants. The Exchange continues to believe that this updated fee structure will incentivize Floor Broker liquidity while balancing and recognizing the importance of Floor Market Makers to make markets on the Exchange's Trading Floor and interact with the orders brought to the Trading Floor for execution by Floor Brokers. More liquidity should benefit all Floor Participants by providing more trading opportunities, offering a more competitive venue for order execution, thus improving market quality for all market participants. *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104002 (September 18, 2025), 90 FR 45840 (September 23, 2025) (SR–SAPPHIRE–2025–37).

[22] *See supra* note 18.

[23] *See, e.g.,* BOX Fee Schedule, Section I.D., Trading Floor Participant Fees (providing that any Floor Broker that executes a trade on 50% or more of the trading days in a given month will receive a $5,000 trading floor credit).

[24] *See* MIAX Sapphire Options Exchange Floor Participant Application, v1.9, Section 5 (modified 5/2025), *available at https://www.miaxglobal.com/miax_sapphire_floor_participant_application.pdf.*

[25] *See* Nasdaq PHLX LLC (''PHLX''), Options 7: Pricing Schedule, Section 8.A. (assessing an inactive nominee fee of $600 for six months plus a ''clerk fee'' of $100 per month) *and* NYSE American LLC (''NYSE American'') Options Fee Schedule, Section III.A. (assessing a Reserve Floor Market Maker ATP monthly fee of $175 per ATP).

[26] The term ''Clerk'' means any registered on-Floor person employed by or associated with a Floor Broker or Floor Market Maker and who is not eligible to effect transactions on the Trading Floor as a Floor Market Maker or Floor Broker. *See* Exchange Rule 2055(a).

[27] *See* Fee Schedule, Section 9)d).

[28] *See supra* note 6.

The Exchange believes the Initial Waiver Period for these fees accomplished this purpose; accordingly, the Exchange proposes to remove the text for the Initial Waiver Period from Section 9)d) of the Fee Schedule.

The Exchange also proposes to amend Section 9)d) of the Fee Schedule to add a clarifying sentence that the Exchange will assess the desk fee for each additional desk requested by a Floor Participant in excess of the desk allotment provided pursuant to Section 9)c) of the Fee Schedule (*i.e.,* paying for a Trading Permit entitles a firm to receive an unlimited number of Trading Permits for its Floor Brokers where each Floor Broker will receive one Trading Permit, badge, and desk; and paying for a Trading Permit entitles each Floor Market Maker to receive one Trading Permit, badge and desk). The purpose of this change is to add clarity to the Fee Schedule and does not change the manner in which the Exchange will assess the desk fee as originally established.

Data Center Hosting Fees

The Exchange proposes to amend Section 9)g) of the Fee Schedule to remove text regarding the Initial Waiver Period. The Exchange waived the data center hosting fees [29] for Floor Participants for the Initial Waiver Period.[30] The Exchange now proposes to remove the reference to the Initial Waiver Period as the Initial Waiver Period is set to automatically expire at the end of February 2026. The Exchange originally waived these fees to incentivize market participants interested in becoming Floor Participants to set up their servers and network equipment in the 545Wyn Data Center prior to or near launch of the Trading Floor.

The Exchange believes the Initial Waiver Period for these fees accomplished this purpose; accordingly, the Exchange proposes to remove the text for the Initial Waiver Period from Section 9)g) of the Fee Schedule. With the proposed changes, effective March 1, 2026, the Exchange will begin to assess an initial one-time fee of $500 per 9-rack [31] unit bay setup and all current and new Floor Participants and non-Members the monthly fee of $1,500 per 9-rack unit bay for those that want to house servers and other network equipment in the 545Wyn Data Center.

* * * * *

On February 25, 2026, the Exchange issued an alert to announce the proposed updates and amendments to the Trading Floor non-transaction fee waivers.[32]

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed changes are consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act [33] in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(4) of the Act [34] in particular, in that the proposal provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among Floor Participants, non-Members and other persons using the Trading Floor or any facility or system thereof, which the Exchange operates or controls. The Exchange also believes the proposed changes further the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act [35] in that they are designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general protect investors and the public interest and are not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers and dealers.

Definitions Section

The Exchange believes its proposal to amend the Definitions section of the Fee Schedule to delete the term ''Initial Waiver Period'' removes impediments to and perfects the mechanism of a free and open market because this change will remove text regarding Trading Floor non-transaction fee waivers from the Fee Schedule and provide clarity to market participants that the Exchange intends to assess such fees, unless otherwise provided for in the Fee Schedule. The Initial Waiver Period was established with an automatic sunset date, which is the end of February 2026. Accordingly, it is in the public interest for the Fee Schedule to be accurate and clear, which will be accomplished by removing expiring fee waiver language.

Application and Initiation Fee (One-Time)

The Exchange believes its proposal to amend Section 9)a) of the Fee Schedule to remove the reference to Initial Waiver Period and insert text to specify that the one-time application and initiation fee will be waived for new Floor Broker applications beginning March 1, 2026 is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. The Exchange believes this change is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because firms that already have active Floor Brokers on the Trading Floor will be able to have additional individuals apply for Floor Broker status and have this fee waived along with new firms that do not currently have active Floor Brokers on the Trading Floor. The Exchange believes it is reasonable to waive this fee for all new Floor Broker applications in order to continue to provide an incentive for market participants interested in becoming Floor Brokers to submit applications and become Floor Brokers sooner, which may result in increased order flow and liquidity to the benefit of all Floor Participants.

The Exchange believes its proposal to not extend the fee waiver for new Floor Market Maker applications is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for the end of February 2026; accordingly, market participants that were interested in becoming Floor Market Makers were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the application and initiation fee upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period. Further, all current Floor Market Makers already applied for Trading Floor membership and had their application and initiation fees waived. At the completion of the Initial Waiver Period, the majority of Floor Participants will have already completed their applications and on-boarding as new Floor Participants, all of whom did not pay the one-time application and

[29] Located in the same building as the Trading Floor is a small data center provided by the Exchange solely to help support the trading activities of Floor Brokers and Floor Market Makers (the ''545Wyn Data Center''). The data center hosting service does not provide dedicated or ''co-located'' access to the MIAX Sapphire trading system infrastructure, nor does it provide any access or other latency advantage for Floor Participants. Floor Brokers and Floor Market Makers may purchase dedicated space in the 545Wyn Data Center to install their firms' hardware and software necessary to support their Trading Floor activities. The 545Wyn Data Center is intended to provide a secure environment to facilitate communication between a firm's desk on the Trading Floor and their back-office (located outside of Miami) that will ultimately enter the QFO or cQFO that originated from the Trading Floor. The Exchange notes, however, that firms are not required to purchase space in the 545Wyn Data Center. A firm may use a separate service provider to route their messages from the Trading Floor to their back-office. *See supra* note 6.

[30] *See supra* note 6.

[31] A data center rack (also referred to as a ''cabinet'') is a vertical framework used to house and organize servers, network equipment and other IT hardware. *See, generally, https://www.equinix.com/products/data-center-services/colocation/cages-cabinets* (last visited February 25, 2026).

[32] *See* Alert, MIAX Sapphire Options Exchange—Reminder for March 1, 2026 Trading Floor Non-Transaction Fee Waivers and Updates, *available at https://www.miaxglobal.com/alert/2026/02/25/miax-sapphire-options-exchange-reminder-march-1-2026-trading-floor-non.*

[33] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

[34] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

[35] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

initiation fees. This means that the Exchange will likely not collect the majority of Floor Participant application and initiation fees.

Participant Fees

The Exchange believes its proposal to amend Section 9)b) of the Fee Schedule to remove the reference to Initial Waiver Period and insert text to specify that new Floor Brokers (on a per-firm basis) will have their participant fees waived for the partial month plus an additional three (3) full calendar months thereafter once the Floor Broker maintains a physical presence on the Trading Floor is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. The Exchange believes this change is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for the end of February 2026; accordingly, current Floor Brokers and Floor Market Makers were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the participant fees upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period. The Exchange believes its proposal to waive the participant fee for a defined period of time for new Floor Brokers is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange believes this waiver will continue to provide an incentive for market participants interested in becoming Floor Brokers to submit applications and begin Floor Broker operations, which may result in increased order flow and liquidity to the benefit of all Floor Participants.

Although the Exchange proposes to waive the participant fee for a defined period of time for new Floor Brokers, the Exchange previously established the fee structure and amount in the Fee Schedule in order to communicate its intent to charge such fees to Floor Participants in the future. The waiver is also a protection to new Floor Brokers. Prior to the expiration of the defined waiver period (*i.e.,* the initial partial month plus three calendar months from when a new Floor Broker maintains a physical presence on the Trading Floor), if prospective Floor Brokers are initiated to trade on the Trading Floor but subsequently decide that they do not want to continue trading on the MIAX Sapphire Trading Floor, they can cancel their Trading Floor membership without having incurred any participant fees prior to the end of the new fee waiver term.

Trading Permit Fees

The Exchange believes its proposal to amend Section 9)c) of the Fee Schedule to remove the references to Initial Waiver Period, certain described months in 2025 and 2026, and Floor Market Maker fee waivers and insert text to specify that for registered Floor Brokers as of February 28, 2026, the monthly Trading Permit fee will be waived if the Floor Broker (per firm) executes at least 100 contracts ADV in QFOs or cQFOs in each relevant month thereafter, with no defined sunset for this particular fee waiver, is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory. This change is designed to continue to provide a conditional fee waiver with a low enough volume threshold that most, if not all, current Floor Brokers should be able to achieve in order to have their Trading Permit fees waived, while also promoting order flow and liquidity as the Trading Floor operations continue to ramp up. Further, the Exchange believes its proposal to waive Trading Permit fees for new firms that register Floor Brokers beginning March 1, 2026 or later for the initial partial month the Floor Broker becomes registered with the Exchange and the three (3) full calendar months thereafter, with no volume requirement during that period, is reasonable because this should incentivize market participants that are not Floor Participants to apply and become registered with the Exchange and begin Floor Broker operations. In turn, the Exchange believes this will promote additional order flow and liquidity to the benefit of all current Floor Participants. The Exchange believes its proposal to include the current volume requirement in order for current Floor Brokers to receive the Trading Permit fee waiver as compared to new Floor Brokers is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because current Floor Brokers have had the past five and half months to set up Trading Floor operations and interact with all Floor Participants. New Floor Brokers will likely need time to ramp up operations to meet such a volume requirement.

The Exchange believes its proposal to not extend the fee waiver for current and new Floor Market Makers is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for the end of February 2026; accordingly, market participants that were interested in becoming Floor Market Makers were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the monthly Trading Permit fee upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period.

The Exchange believes its proposal to establish a low monthly fee for Floor Market Maker Alternates is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because Floor Market Maker Alternates do not regularly trade on the Trading Floor and will only fill in for the primary Floor Market Maker of the same firm when the primary Floor Market Maker is not active on a particular trading day or number of trading days. The Exchange believes this proposed fee is reasonable in relation to the service being provided, where a firm can prepare a Floor Market Maker as an alternate in the event that its primary Floor Market Maker is unable to be active on the Trading Floor for any number of foreseen and unforeseen circumstances. This provides firms with a convenient means to substitute Floor Market Makers where the primary individual is unable to be active on the Trading Floor for any number of reasons, while balancing the interests of the Exchange to ensure that all active trading personnel are properly accounted for on each trading day. The Exchange believes the proposed fee is reasonable when compared to similar fees for ''inactive'' or ''reserve'' participants of other exchanges.[36]

Desk and Badge Fees

The Exchange believes its proposal to amend Section 9)d) of the Fee Schedule to remove the reference to Initial Waiver Period in connection with desk and badge fees is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for the end of February 2026; accordingly, market participants were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the desk and badge fees upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period. The Exchange believes its proposal to add a clarifying sentence that the Exchange will assess the desk fee for each additional desk requested by a Floor Participant in excess of the desk allotment provided pursuant to Section 9)c) of the Fee Schedule promotes just and equitable principles of trade and removes impediments to a free and open market because this will add clarity to the Fee Schedule regarding the assessment of desk fees. This change also promotes just and equitable principles of trade and removes impediments to a free and open market by removing expiring fee waiver text from the Fee Schedule. It is in the public interest for the Fee Schedule to be accurate and clear.

Further, this proposed added text does not change the manner in which the Exchange will assess the desk fee as originally established (*i.e.,* paying for a

[36] *See supra* note 25.

Trading Permit entitles a firm to receive an unlimited number of Trading Permits for its Floor Brokers where each Floor Broker will receive one Trading Permit, badge, and desk; paying for a Trading Permit entitles each Floor Market Maker to receive one Trading Permit, badge and desk; and all additional desk requests will be assessed the monthly fee of $350 per desk). The purpose of this change is to add clarity to the Fee Schedule and does not change the manner in which the Exchange will assess the desk fee as originally established.

Data Center Hosting Fees

The Exchange believes its proposal to amend Section 9)g) of the Fee Schedule to remove the reference to Initial Waiver Period in connection with the data center hosting fees is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for the end of February 2026; accordingly, market participants were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the data center hosting fees upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period. This change also promotes just and equitable principles of trade and removes impediments to a free and open market by removing expiring fee waiver text from the Fee Schedule. It is in the public interest for the Fee Schedule to be accurate and clear.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Intra-Market Competition

Definitions Section

The Exchange believes the proposal to remove the definition for ''Initial Waiver Period'' will not result in any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because this change is not intended to impact competition among market participants; rather, it is intended to provide clarity in the Fee Schedule that the Initial Waiver Period is no longer in effect since it automatically expired at the end of February 2026.

One-Time Application and Initiation Fees

The Exchange believes the proposal to remove the reference to Initial Waiver Period and insert text to specify that the one-time application and initiation fee will be waived for new Floor Broker applications beginning March 1, 2026 will not result in any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. Firms that already have active Floor Brokers on the Trading Floor will be able to have additional individuals apply for Floor Broker status and have this fee waived along with new firms that do not currently have active Floor Brokers on the Trading Floor. The Exchange believes its proposal to not extend the fee waiver for new Floor Market Maker applications will not result in any burden on intra-market competition because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for the end of February 2026; accordingly, market participants that were interested in becoming Floor Market Makers were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the application and initiation fee upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period. Further, all current Floor Market Makers already applied for Trading Floor membership and had their application and initiation fees waived.

Participant Fees

The Exchange believes the proposal to remove the reference to Initial Waiver Period and insert text to specify that new Floor Brokers (on a per-firm basis) will have their participant fees waived for the partial month plus an additional three (3) full calendar months thereafter once the Floor Broker maintains a physical presence on the Trading Floor will not result in any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. This is because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for the end of February 2026; accordingly, current Floor Brokers and Floor Market Makers were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the participant fees upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period. The Exchange believes its proposal to waive the participant fee for a defined period of time for new Floor Brokers will not result in any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because the Exchange believes this waiver will promote competition by providing an incentive for market participants interested in becoming Floor Brokers to submit applications and begin Floor Broker operations, which may result in increased order flow and liquidity to the benefit of all Floor Participants.

Trading Permit Fees

The Exchange believes its proposal to remove the references to Initial Waiver Period, certain months in 2025 and 2026, and Floor Market Maker fee waivers and insert text to specify that for registered Floor Brokers as of February 28, 2026, the monthly Trading Permit fee will be waived if the Floor Broker (per firm) executes at least 100 contracts ADV in QFOs or cQFOs in each relevant month thereafter, with no defined sunset for this particular fee waiver, does not impose any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. This change is designed to continue to provide a conditional fee waiver with a low enough volume threshold that most, if not all, current Floor Brokers should be able to achieve in order to have their Trading Permit fees waived, which should promote competition by encouraging order flow and liquidity. Further, the Exchange believes its proposal to waive Trading Permit fees for new firms that register Floor Brokers beginning March 1, 2026 or later for the initial partial month the Floor Broker becomes registered with the Exchange and the three (3) full calendar months thereafter, with no volume requirement during that period, does not impose any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because this should also incentivize market participants that are not Floor Participants to apply and become registered with the Exchange and begin Floor Broker operations. In turn, the Exchange believes this will promote additional order flow and liquidity to the benefit of all current Floor Participants. The Exchange believes its proposal to include the current volume requirement in order for current Floor Brokers to receive the Trading Permit fee waiver as compared to new Floor Brokers does not impose any burden on intra-market competition because current Floor Brokers have had the past five and half months to set up Trading Floor operations and interact with all Floor Participants, while new Floor Brokers will likely need time to ramp up operations to meet such a volume requirement.

The Exchange believes its proposal to not extend the fee waiver for current and new Floor Market Makers does not impose any burden on intra-market competition because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for

the end of February 2026; accordingly, market participants that were interested in becoming Floor Market Makers were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the monthly Trading Permit fee upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period.

The Exchange believes its proposal to establish a low monthly fee for Floor Market Maker Alternates does not impose any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because all Floor Market Makers may designate and register a Floor Market Maker Alternate and pay the same corresponding fee. This change is not intended to be competitive; rather, it is designed to provide firms with a convenient means to substitute Floor Market Makers where the primary individual is unable to be active on the Trading Floor for any number of reasons.

Desk and Badge Fees

The Exchange believes that the proposal to remove the reference to the Initial Waiver Period for desk and badge fees will not result in any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for the end of February 2026. As such, market participants were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the desk and badge fees upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period. Pursuant to Section 9)c) of the Fee Schedule, Floor Participants that purchase a Trading Permit will receive a desk and badge included in their Trading Permit fee and all Floor Participants will be subject to the same desk fee for each additional requested desk.

Data Center Hosting Fees

The Exchange believes that the proposal to remove the reference to the Initial Waiver Period for data center hosting fees will not result in any burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act because the Exchange originally established the Initial Waiver Period with an automatic sunset date for the end of February 2026. As such, market participants were aware since September 2025 that the Exchange intended to assess the data center hosting fees upon the expiration of the Initial Waiver Period and all current and new Floor Participants that choose to install their own equipment within the 545Wyn Data Center will be subject to the same initial and on-going fees.

Inter-Market Competition

The Exchange believes that the proposed changes will not result in any burden on inter-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes that market participants have the choice to trade on the Exchange's Trading Floor, electronic platform, or not trade on the Exchange at all. The Exchange believes that all of the proposed changes will not cause any burden on inter-market competition because none of the proposed fee waivers are intended to impact the ability to compete of other exchanges' that offer a trading floor for equity options.

Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee changes impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments were neither solicited nor received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act,[37] and Rule 19b–4(f)(2) [38] thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov.* Please include file number SR–SAPPHIRE–2026–09 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–SAPPHIRE–2026–09. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR–SAPPHIRE–2026–09 and should be submitted on or before April 6, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[39]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05011 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

[37] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

[38] 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f)(2).

[39] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Investment Company Act Release No. 36015; File No. 812–15950]

JPMorgan Private Markets Fund, et al.

March 11, 2026.

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'' or ''SEC'').

ACTION: Notice.

Notice of application for an order under sections 17(d) and 57(i) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the ''Act'') and rule 17d–1 under the Act to permit certain joint transactions otherwise prohibited by sections 17(d) and 57(a)(4) of the Act and rule 17d–1 under the Act.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION: Applicants request an order to permit certain registered closed-end management investment companies and business development companies to co-invest in portfolio companies with each other and with certain affiliated investment entities.

APPLICANTS: JPMorgan Private Markets Fund, JPMorgan Credit Markets Fund, J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc., and certain of their affiliated entities as described in Appendix A to the application.

FILING DATES: The application was filed on December 5, 2025 and amended on March 2, 2026 and March 6, 2026.

HEARING OR NOTIFICATION OF HEARING: An order granting the requested relief will be issued unless the Commission orders a hearing. Interested persons may request a hearing on any application by emailing the SEC's Secretary at *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov* and serving the Applicants with a copy of the request by email, if an email address is listed for the relevant Applicant below, or personally or by mail, if a physical address is listed for the relevant Applicant below. The email should include the file number referenced above. Hearing requests should be received by the Commission by 5:30 p.m. Eastern time on April 6, 2026, and should be accompanied by proof of service on the Applicants, in the form of an affidavit or, for lawyers, a certificate of service. Pursuant to rule 0–5 under the Act, hearing requests should state the nature of the writer's interest, any facts bearing upon the desirability of a hearing on the matter, the reason for the request, and the issues contested. Persons who wish to be notified of a hearing may request notification by emailing the Commission's Secretary at *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov.*

ADDRESSES: The Commission: *Secretarys-Office@sec.gov.* Applicants: Carmine Lekstutis, J.P. Morgan Investment Management Inc., *carmine.lekstutis@jpmorgan.com;* Rajib Chanda, Esq., Ryan P. Brizek, Esq., and Neesa Patel Sood, Esq., Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, *rajib.chanda@stblaw.com, ryan.brizek@stblaw.com,* and *neesa.sood@stblaw.com.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kris Easter Guidroz, Senior Counsel, or Adam Large, Senior Special Counsel, at (202) 551–6825 (Division of Investment Management, Chief Counsel's Office).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For Applicants' representations, legal analysis, and conditions, please refer to Applicants' second amended application filed March 6, 2026, which may be obtained via the Commission's website by searching for the file number at the top of this document, or for an Applicant using the Company name search field, on the SEC's EDGAR system. The SEC's EDGAR system may be searched at *https://www.sec.gov/search-filings.* You may also call the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Advocacy at (202) 551–8090.

For the Commission, by the Division of Investment Management, under delegated authority.

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05010 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104969; File No. SR–NASDAQ–2025–069]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC; Notice of Designation of a Longer Period for Commission Action on Proceedings To Determine Whether To Approve or Disapprove a Proposed Rule Change, as Modified by Amendment No. 1, To Adopt Additional Initial Listing Criteria for Companies Primarily Operating in China

March 11, 2026.

I. Introduction

On September 4, 2025, the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (''Exchange'' or ''Nasdaq'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission''), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'') [1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] a proposed rule change to adopt additional initial listing criteria for companies primarily operating in the People's Republic of China (''China''), including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (''Hong Kong'') and the Macau Special Administrative Region (''Macau''). On September 12, 2025, the Exchange filed Amendment No. 1 to the proposed rule change, which replaced and superseded the original filing in its entirety. The proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on September 19, 2025.[3] On September 25, 2025, the Commission designated a longer period within which to take action on the proposed rule change.[4] On December 18, 2025, the Commission is instituted proceedings pursuant to Section 19(b)(2)(B) of the Act [5] to determine whether to approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1.[6]

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act [7] provides that, after initiating proceedings, the Commission shall issue an order approving or disapproving the proposed rule change not later than 180 days after the date of publication of notice of filing of the proposed rule change. The Commission may extend the period for issuing an order approving or disapproving the proposed rule change, however, by not more than 60 days if the Commission determines that a longer period is appropriate and publishes the reasons for such determination. The proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on September 19, 2025.[8] The 180th day after publication of the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, is March 18, 2026. The Commission is extending the time period for approving or disapproving the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, for an additional 60 days.

The Commission finds that it is appropriate to designate a longer period within which to issue an order approving or disapproving the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1, so that it has sufficient time to consider the proposed rule change and the issues raised therein, as well as the comments received. Accordingly, the Commission, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,[9] designates May 17, 2026, as the date by which the Commission shall either approve or disapprove the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1 (File No. SR–NASDAQ–2025–069).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 103979 (Sept. 16, 2025), 90 FR 45298 (''Notice''). Comments received on the proposed rule change are available at: *https://www.sec.gov/comments/sr-nasdaq-2025-069/srnasdaq2025069.htm.*

[4] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104058, 90 FR 46973 (Sept. 30, 2025). The Commission designated December 18, 2025, as the date by which the Commission should approve, disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove the proposed rule change, as modified by Amendment No. 1. *See id.*

[5] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2)(B).

[6] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104456, 90 FR 60214 (Dec. 23, 2025).

[7] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[8] *See supra* note 3.

[9] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[10]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05018 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104971; File No. SR–CboeEDGX–2026–010]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Its Fees Schedule To Amend the Customer Volume Tier and the Market Maker Volume Tier Programs, and To Eliminate the Firm Penny Program Cross-Asset Tier Program

March 11, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'')[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] notice is hereby given that on March 2, 2026, Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the ''Exchange'' or ''EDGX'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

Cboe EDGX Exchange, Inc. (the ''Exchange'' or ''EDGX'') proposes to amend its Fees Schedule to amend the Customer Volume Tier and the Market Maker Volume Tier programs, and to eliminate the Firm Penny Program Cross-Asset Tier program. The text of the proposed rule change is provided in Exhibit 5.

The text of the proposed rule change is also available on the Commission's website (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*), the Exchange's website (*https://www.cboe.com/us/equities/regulation/rule_filings/bzx/*), and at the principal office of the Exchange.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and the Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend its Fees Schedule, effective March 2, 2026.

The Exchange first notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. More specifically, the Exchange is only one of 18 options venues to which market participants may direct their order flow. Based on publicly available information, no single options exchange has more than 17% of the market share.[3] Thus, in such a low-concentrated and highly competitive market, no single options exchange, including the Exchange, possesses significant pricing power in the execution of option order flow. The Exchange believes that the ever-shifting market share among the exchanges from month to month demonstrates that market participants can shift order flow or discontinue to reduce use of certain categories of products, in response to fee changes. Accordingly, competitive forces constrain the Exchange's transaction fees, and market participants can readily trade on competing venues if they deem pricing levels at those other venues to be more favorable.

The Exchange's Fees Schedule sets forth standard rebates and rates applied per contract. For example, the Exchange provides standard rebates ranging from $0.01 up to $0.22 per contract for Customer orders in Penny and Non-Penny Securities. The Fee Codes and Associated Fees section of the Fees Schedule also provides for certain fee codes associated with certain order types and market participants that provide for various other fees or rebates. For example, the Exchange provides a rebate of $0.01 per contract for Customer orders that remove liquidity, in Non-Penny Securities, yielding fee code NC; provides a rebate of $0.01 per contract for Customer orders that remove liquidity, in Penny Securities, yielding fee code PC; provides a rebate of $0.01 per contract for Customer (contra Non-Customer) orders that add liquidity, yielding fee code CA; assesses a fee of $0.20 per contract for Market Maker orders that add liquidity, in Penny Securities, yielding fee code PM; assesses a fee of $0.20 per contract for Market Maker orders that add liquidity, in Non-Penny Securities, yielding fee code NM; and Additionally, in response to the competitive environment, the Exchange also offers tiered pricing, which provides Members with opportunities to qualify for higher rebates or reduced fees where certain volume criteria and thresholds are met. Tiered pricing provides an incremental incentive for Members to strive for higher tier levels, which provides increasingly higher benefits or discounts for satisfying increasingly more stringent criteria.

Customer Volume Tiers

The Exchange proposes to amend Footnote 1 (Customer Volume Tiers), applicable to orders yielding fee codes PC, NC, and CA. Pursuant to Footnote 1 of the Fee Schedule, the Exchange currently offers six Customer Volume Tiers that provide rebates between $0.10 and $0.22 per contract for qualifying customer orders yielding fee codes PC, NC and CA where a Member meets the respective tiers' required criteria.[4] The Exchange proposes to update the Customer Volume Tiers by (1) eliminating the Customer Cross-Asset Tier, (2) adopting a new Tier 5, and (3) amending the required criteria for current Tier 5.

Currently, under the Customer Cross-Asset Tier, the Exchange provides a rebate of $0.18 per contract if a Member has (1) an ADV[5] in Customer orders greater than or equal to 1.75% of

[10] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(57).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] *See* Cboe Global Markets U.S. Options Market Monthly Volume Summary (February 19, 2026), available at *https://markets.cboe.com/us/options/market_statistics/*.

[4] *See* Cboe EDGX U.S. Options Exchange Fees Schedule, Footnote 1, Customer Volume Tiers.

[5] ''ADV'' means average daily volume calculated as the number of contracts added or removed, combined, per day. ADV is calculated on a monthly basis. *See* Cboe EDGX Options Exchange Fee Schedule.

average OCV;[6] (2) an ADAV[7] in Simple Customer Non-Crossing orders yielding fee code CA greater than or equal to 0.55% of average OCV; (3) an ADV in Firm orders greater than or equal to 0.20% of average OCV; and (4) has on EDGX Equities (the Exchange's equities platform) an ADAV greater than or equal to 0.45% of average TCV.[8] The Exchange proposes to eliminate the Customer Cross-Asset Tier.

Next, the Exchange proposes to amend the Customer Volume Tier program to add a new Tier 5.[9] Under the proposed Tier 5, the Exchange would provide a rebate of $0.20 per contract if a Member has (1) an ADV in Customer orders greater than or equal to 2.00% of average OCV; (2) an ADAV in Simple Customer Non-Crossing orders yielding fee code CA greater than or equal to 0.75% of average OCV; and (3) an ADV in Customer Crossing orders greater than or equal to 0.75% of average OCV. The Exchange also proposes a corresponding non-substantive amendment to update current Tier 5 to Tier 6.

Finally, the Exchange proposes to amend the required criteria for this Tier 6 (current Tier 5). Under Tier 6, as amended, the Exchange provides a rebate of $0.22 per contract if a Member has (1) an ADV in Customer orders greater than or equal to 2.00% of average OCV; (2) an ADAV in Simple Customer Non-Crossing orders yielding fee code CA greater than or equal to 1.25% of average OCV; and (3) a QCC agency Volume greater than or equal to 2,000,000 contracts per month, with both sides of each transaction being Non-Customer, Non-Professional.

The Exchange proposes to amend the required criteria for Tier 6 so that to qualify, Members must have (1) an ADV in Customer orders greater than or equal to 2.00% of average OCV; and (2) an ADAV in Simple Customer Non-Crossing orders yielding fee code CA greater than or equal to 1.25% of average OCV.

Market Maker Volume Tiers

The Exchange also proposes to amend Footnote 2 (Market Maker Volume Tiers), applicable to orders yielding fee codes PM and NM. Pursuant to Footnote 2 of the Fees Schedule, the Exchange currently offers six Market Maker Volume Tiers which provide reduced fees between $0.02 and $0.17 per contract for qualifying Market Makers orders that yield fee code PM or NM where a Member meets the respective tiers' required criteria.[10] The Exchange proposes to amend the Market Maker Volume Tiers by (1) eliminating Tier 1 [sic] and (2) amending required criteria for current Tiers 5 and 6.

Currently, under Market Maker Volume Tier 2, the Exchange provides a reduced fee of $0.13 per contract for a Member's qualifying orders (*i.e.,* yielding fee code PM or NM) if a Member has (1) an ADV in Market Maker orders greater than or equal to 0.15% of average OCV; (2) a step up ADAV in Market Maker orders from July 2019 greater than or equal to 0.10% of average OCV; and (3) has on EDGX Equities an ADAV greater than or equal to 0.30% of average TCV. The Exchange proposes to eliminate Tier 2. The Exchange also proposes a corresponding non-substantive amendment to update current Tiers 3, 4, 5, and 6 to Tiers 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively.

The Exchange also proposes to amend the required criteria under Tiers 4 and 5, as amended (current Tiers 5 and 6, respectively). Currently, to qualify for Tier 4, a Member must have an ADV in Customer orders greater than or equal to 1.20% of average OCV, and to qualify for Tier 5, a Member must have an ADV in Customer orders greater than or equal to 1.45% of average OCV. The Exchange propose to amend the required criteria so that to qualify for Tier 4 (current Tier 5) Members must have an ADV in Market Maker orders of greater than or equal to 1.00% (instead of 1.20%) of average OCV, and to qualify for Tier 5 (current Tier 6), Members must have an ADV in Market Maker orders of greater than or equal to 1.25% (instead of 1.45%) of average OCV.

Firm Penny Program Cross-Asset Tier

Pursuant to Footnote 4 of the Fees Schedule, the Exchange currently offers a Firm Penny Program Cross-Asset Tier which requires participation on EDGX Equities and provides Members a reduced fee of $0.32 per contract for orders that yield fee code PF[11] where the Member: (i) has an ADV in Firm[12] orders equal to or greater than 0.15% of average TCV [sic]; and (ii) has on EDGX Equities an ADAV equal to or greater than 0.12% of average TCV. The Exchange proposes to eliminate the Firm Penny Program Cross-Asset Tier.[13]

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the ''Act'') and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to the Exchange and, in particular, the requirements of Section 6(b) of the Act.[14] Specifically, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)[15] requirements that the rules of an exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to foster cooperation and coordination with persons engaged in regulating, clearing, settling, processing information with respect to, and facilitating transactions in securities, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the public interest. Additionally, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5)[16] requirement that the rules of an exchange not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers. The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b)(4) of the Act,[17] which requires that Exchange rules provide for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees, and other charges among its Members and other persons using its facilities.

As described above, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily direct order flow to competing

[6] ''OCV'' means the total equity and ETF options volume that clears in the Customer range at the Options Clearing Corporation (''OCC'') for the month for which the fees apply, excluding volume on any day that the Exchange experiences an Exchange System Disruption and on any day with a scheduled early market close. *See* Cboe EDGX Options Exchange Fee Schedule.

[7] ''ADAV'' means average daily added volume calculated as the number of contracts added. ADAV is calculated on a monthly basis. *See* Cboe EDGX Options Exchange Fee Schedule.

[8] ''TCV'' means total consolidated volume calculated as the volume reported by all exchanges to the consolidated transaction reporting plan for the month for which the fees apply, excluding volume on any day that the Exchange experiences an Exchange System Disruption and on any day with a scheduled early market close. *See* Cboe EDGX Options Exchange Fee Schedule.

[9] The Exchange proposes to add this tier as described in the table in Footnote 1 and add the amount of the rebate in the Standard Rates table.

[10] *See* Cboe EDGX U.S. Options Exchange Fees Schedule, Footnote 2, Market Maker Volume Tiers.

[11] Fee code 'PF' is appended to Firm orders in Penny Securities; the Exchange assesses a standard transaction fee of $0.45 per contract for orders which yield fee code 'PF'. *See* Cboe EDGX Options Exchange Fee Schedule.

[12] ''Firm'' applies to any order for the proprietary account of an OCC clearing member. *See* Cboe EDGX Options Exchange Fee Schedule.

[13] The Exchange proposes to eliminate the tier as described in Footnote 4 and market Footnote 4 as ''Reserved.'' The Exchange also proposes to eliminate the rebate in the Standard Rates table and to delete the reference to Footnote 4 appended to fee code PF within the Fee Codes and Associated Fees table.

[14] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

[15] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[16] *Id.*

[17] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4).

venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive or incentives to be insufficient. The proposed rule change reflects a competitive pricing structure designed to incentivize market participants to direct their order flow to the Exchange, which the Exchange believes would enhance market quality to the benefit of all market participants. The Exchange is only one of several options venues to which market participants may direct their order flow, and it represents a small percentage of the overall market. The proposed fee changes reflect a competitive pricing structure designed to incentivize market participants to direct their order flow, which the Exchange believes would enhance market quality to the benefit of all Members.

Customer Volume Tiers

The Exchange believes the proposal to update the Customer Volume Tiers by (1) eliminating the Customer Cross-Asset Tier, (2) adopting a new Tier 5, and (3) amending the required criteria for Tier 6 (*i.e.,* current Tier 5) is reasonable, equitable and not unfairly discriminatory.

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable and equitable to eliminate the Customer Cross-Asset Tier, because the Exchange is not required to maintain this tier or provide Members an opportunity to receive reduced fees or enhanced rebates. No Members are currently satisfying the criteria under this tier, and the Exchange now wishes to consolidate this tiered pricing program and redirect resources and funding into other programs and tiers intended to incentivize increased order flow. Further, Members still have other opportunities to obtain rebates via the remaining Customer Volume Tiers.

The Exchange believes that eliminating Customer Cross-Asset Tier is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it applies uniformly to all Members, in that the tier will not be available for any Member. The Exchange also notes that the proposed change will not adversely impact any Member's ability to qualify for other rebate tiers. Further, the remaining Customer Volume Tiers will continue to apply uniformly to all qualifying Members, in that all Members that submit the requisite order flow per each tier program have the opportunity to compete for and achieve the available tiers.

The Exchange believes the proposed changes to the Customer Volume Rebate Tier program are reasonable because they continue to provide opportunities for Members to receive higher rebates by providing for incrementally increasing volume-based criteria they can reach for. The Exchange believes the tiers, as modified, continue to serve as a reasonable means to encourage Members to increase their liquidity on the Exchange, particularly in connection with additional Customer Order flow to the Exchange in order to benefit from the proposed enhanced rebates. The Exchange also notes that any overall increased liquidity that may result from the proposed tier incentives benefits all investors by offering additional flexibility for all investors to enjoy cost savings, supporting the quality of price discovery, promoting market transparency and improving investor protection. The Exchange also believes the proposed change to adopt a new Customer Volume Tier 5 is reasonable because it provides an opportunity for Members to receive a rebate by providing alternative criteria for which they can reach.

The Exchange believes the proposed criteria remain commensurate with the corresponding enhanced rebates. The Exchange believes the revised criteria will continue to encourage Members to send additional Customer orders to the Exchange. Rebates that are designed to incentivize add volume order flow may increase transactions on the Exchange, which the Exchange believes incentivizes liquidity providers to submit additional liquidity and execution opportunities. As noted above, an overall increase in activity deepens the Exchange's liquidity pool, offers additional cost savings, supports the quality of price discovery, promotes market transparency and improves market quality for all investors.

The Exchange believes that the proposed changes to the Customer Volume Tier program represent an equitable allocation of fees and is not unfairly discriminatory because Members will be eligible for these tiers and the corresponding enhanced rebates will apply uniformly to all Members that reach the proposed tier criteria. The Exchange believes that a number of market participants have a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the tiers' criteria as modified. While the Exchange has no way of knowing whether this proposed rule change would definitively result in any particular Member qualifying for new Tier 5 and Tier 6, the Exchange anticipates at least two Members meeting, or being reasonably able to meet, both the new Tier 5 and revised Tier 6 criteria; however, the proposed tier is open to any Member that satisfies the tiers' criteria. The Exchange also notes that the proposed changes will not adversely impact any Member's pricing or their ability to qualify for other rebate tiers. Rather, should a Member not meet the proposed criteria, the Member will merely not receive the corresponding enhanced rebates.

Market Maker Volume Tiers

The Exchange believes its proposal to update the Market Maker Volume Tiers by Market Maker Volume Tiers by eliminating Tier 2 and amending required criteria for Tiers 4 and 5 as amended (*i.e.,* current Tiers 5 and 6, respectively) is reasonable, equitable, and not unfairly discriminatory.

Specifically, the Exchange believes that it is reasonable and equitable to eliminate Market Maker Volume Tier 2, because the Exchange is not required to maintain this tier or provide Members an opportunity to receive reduced fees or enhanced rebates. No Members are currently satisfying the criteria under this tier, and the Exchange wishes to consolidate this tiered pricing program and redirect resources and funding into other programs and tiers intended to incentivize increased order flow. Further, Members still have other opportunities to obtain reduced fees via the remaining Market Maker Volume Tiers.

The Exchange believes that eliminating Market Maker Volume Tier 2 is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it applies uniformly to all Market Makers, in that, such tier will not be available for any Market Maker. The Exchange also notes that the proposed change will not adversely impact any Member's pricing or their ability to qualify for other rebate tiers. Further, the remaining Market Maker Volume Tiers will continue to apply uniformly to all qualifying Members, in that all Members that submit the requisite order flow per each tier program have the opportunity to compete for and achieve the available tiers.

Further, the Exchange believes the proposed changes to the required criteria for Tiers 4 and 5 as amended (*i.e.,* current Tiers 5 and 6, respectively) are reasonable because they continue to provide opportunities for Members to receive reduced fees by providing for incrementally increasing volume-based criteria they can reach for. The proposed changes ease the requirement to achieve applicable tier thresholds, which the Exchange believes will continue to serve as a reasonable means to encourage Members to increase their liquidity on the Exchange, particularly in connection with additional Market Maker order flow to the Exchange, to the benefit of investors.

The Exchange believes the proposed criteria remain commensurate with the corresponding enhanced rebates. The Exchange believes the revised criteria will continue to encourage Members to send additional Market Maker orders to the Exchange. Greater add volume order flow may increase transactions on the Exchange, which the Exchange believes incentivizes liquidity providers to submit additional liquidity and execution opportunities. An overall increase in activity deepens the Exchange's liquidity pool, offers additional cost savings, supports the quality of price discovery, promotes market transparency and improves market quality for all investors.

Finally, the Exchange believes the proposed changes to the Market Maker Volume Tiers are equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because they apply uniformly to all Market Makers, who will have the opportunity to meet the tiers' criteria and receive the corresponding enhanced rebate for each tier if such criteria is met. Further, the Exchange believes that it is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory to apply the proposed changes to Market Makers as compared to other market participants, because Market Makers, unlike other market participants, take on a number of obligations, including quoting obligations, which other market participants do not have. Further, these rebates are intended to incentivize Market Makers to quote and trade more on the Exchange, thereby providing more trading opportunities for all market participants.

Without having a view of activity on other markets and off-exchange venues, the Exchange has no way of knowing whether these proposed changes would definitely result in any Members qualifying for reduced fees under the Market Maker Volume Tiers, as amended. While the Exchange has no way of predicting with certainty how the proposed changes will impact Member activity, based on trading activity from the prior months, the Exchange anticipates that up to one Member could achieve Tier 4 and up to one Member could achieve Tier 5. Further, the Exchange believes the proposed changes could incentivize Market Makers to increase their order flow to attempt to achieve these tiers. Should a Member not meet the proposed new criteria, the Member will merely not receive that corresponding enhanced rebate.

Firm Penny Program Cross-Asset Tier

The Exchange believes that it is reasonable and equitable to eliminate the Firm Penny Program Cross-Asset Tier under Footnote 4 of the Fee Schedule. The Exchange is not required to maintain this tier or provide Members an opportunity to receive reduced fees or enhanced rebates. No Members are currently satisfying the criteria under this tier, and the Exchange wishes to consolidate its pricing program and redirect resources and funding into other programs and tiers intended to incentivize increased order flow.

The Exchange believes that eliminating the Firm Penny Program Cross-Asset Tier is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because it applies uniformly to all Members, in that, such tier will not be available for any Member. The Exchange also notes that the proposed change will not adversely impact any Member's ability to qualify for other rebate tiers under the Fee Schedule.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. In particular, the Exchange believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intramarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The proposed changes apply to all participants, as applicable. Particularly, the proposed amendments to the Customer Volume Tiers apply uniformly to all Members, who will have the opportunity to meet each tier's criteria under the program, as amended, and receive the corresponding enhanced rebate for the tier if such criteria is met. As discussed above, Customer order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange for the benefit of all market participants. Specifically, Customer liquidity benefits all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which attracts Market Makers. An increase in the activity of these market participants in turn facilitates tighter spreads, which may cause an additional corresponding increase in order flow from other market participants. The rebates offered to Customers under the programs are intended to attract more Customer trading volume to the Exchange.

Similarly, the proposed amendments to the Market Maker Volume Tiers apply uniformly to all Market Makers, in that all Market Makers have the opportunity to meet each tier's criteria under the program, as amended, and receive the corresponding enhanced rebate for the tier if such criteria are met. To the extent Market Makers receive a benefit that other market participants do not, these Members in their role as Market Makers on the Exchange have different obligations and are held to different standards. For example, Market Makers play a crucial role in providing active and liquid markets in their appointed products, thereby providing a robust market which benefits all market participants.

For each of the incentive programs, all Members are able to increase their applicable order flow to attempt to achieve each of the program's respective tiers. Should a Member not meet the criteria under a program, the Member will merely not receive that corresponding enhanced rebate.

Finally, the proposal to eliminate the Firm Penny Program Cross-Asset Tier applies uniformly to all participants as applicable, in that, such tier will not be available to any participants.

The Exchange also believes the proposed rule change does not impose any burden on intermarket competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. As previously discussed, the Exchange operates in a highly competitive market. Members have numerous alternative venues they may participate on and direct their order flow, including 17 other options exchanges. Additionally, the Exchange represents a small percentage of the overall market. Based on publicly available information, no single options exchange has more than 17% of the market share.[18] Therefore, no exchange possesses significant pricing power in the execution of order flow. Indeed, participants can readily choose to send their orders to other exchanges if they deem fee levels at those other venues to be more favorable. Moreover, the Commission has repeatedly expressed its preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. Specifically, in Regulation NMS, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system ''has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.'' The fact that this market is competitive has also long been recognized by the courts. In *NetCoalition* v. *Securities and Exchange Commission,* the D.C. Circuit

[18] *See* Cboe Global Markets U.S. Options Monthly Market Volume Summary (February 19, 2026), available at *https://markets.cboe.com/us/options/market_statistics/.*

stated as follows: ''[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' . . . As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'. . . .''. Accordingly, the Exchange does not believe its proposed fee change imposes any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

The Exchange neither solicited nor received comments on the proposed rule change.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A) of the Act [19] and paragraph (f) of Rule 19b–4 [20] thereunder. At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission will institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov*. Please include file number SR–CboeEDGX–2026–010 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–CboeEDGX–2026–010. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–CboeEDGX–2026–010 and should be submitted on or before April 6, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[21]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05014 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104975; File No. SR–CboeBZX–2026–004]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Notice of Designation of a Longer Period for Commission Action on a Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Opening Auction Process Provided Under Rule 11.23(b)(2)(B) To Delay the Opening Auction Under Certain Market Conditions in Order To Improve Price Discovery and Allow Executions To Occur at Prices That Better Reflect Current Market Conditions

March 11, 2026.

On January 8, 2026, Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission''), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'') [1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] a proposed rule change to amend the Opening Auction Process provided under Rule 11.23(b)(2)(B) to delay the Opening Auction under certain market conditions in order to improve price discovery and allow executions to occur at prices that better reflect current market conditions. The proposed rule change was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on January 27, 2026.[3]

Section 19(b)(2) of the Act [4] provides that within 45 days of the publication of notice of the filing of a proposed rule change, or within such longer period up to 90 days as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission shall either approve the proposed rule change, disapprove the proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved. The 45th day after publication of the notice for this proposed rule change is March 13, 2026. The Commission is extending this 45-day time period.

The Commission finds it appropriate to designate a longer period within which to take action on the proposed rule change so that it has sufficient time to consider the proposed rule change and the issues raised therein. Accordingly, the Commission, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,[5] designates April 27, 2026, as the date by which the Commission shall either approve or disapprove, or institute proceedings to determine whether to disapprove, the proposed rule change (File No. SR–CboeBZX–2026–004).

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[6]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05020 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

PLACE: The meeting will be held via remote means and at the Commission's

[19] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A).

[20] 17 CFR 240.19b–4(f).

[21] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104654 (Jan. 22, 2026), 91 FR 3588. The Commission has received no comment letters on the proposed rule change.

[4] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[5] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[6] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(31).

headquarters, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549.

STATUS: This meeting will be closed to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Commissioners, Counsel to the Commissioners, the Secretary to the Commission, and recording secretaries will attend the closed meeting. Certain staff members who have an interest in the matters also may be present.

In the event that the time, date, or location of this meeting changes, an announcement of the change, along with the new time, date, and/or place of the meeting will be posted on the Commission's website at *https://www.sec.gov.*

The General Counsel of the Commission, or his designee, has certified that, in his opinion, one or more of the exemptions set forth in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(3), (5), (6), (7), (8), 9(B) and (10) and 17 CFR 200.402(a)(3), (a)(5), (a)(6), (a)(7), (a)(8), (a)(9)(ii) and (a)(10), permit consideration of the scheduled matters at the closed meeting.

The subject matter of the closed meeting will consist of the following topics:

Institution and settlement of injunctive actions;

Institution and settlement of administrative proceedings;

Resolution of litigation claims; and

Other matters relating to examinations and enforcement proceedings.

At times, changes in Commission priorities require alterations in the scheduling of meeting agenda items that may consist of adjudicatory, examination, litigation, or regulatory matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: For further information, please contact Vanessa A. Countryman from the Office of the Secretary at (202) 551–5400.

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552b)

Dated: March 12, 2026.

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05116 Filed 3–12–26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104970; File No. SR–CboeBZX–2026–005]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.; Order Granting Approval of a Proposed Rule Change To Amend Exchange Rule 14.12

March 11, 2026.

I. Introduction

On January 29, 2026, Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (''Exchange'' or ''BZX'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission''), pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act'') [1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] a proposed rule change to amend Exchange Rule 14.12 (Failure to Meet Listing Standards) to authorize the Listing Qualifications Department (''Exchange Staff'') to grant an issuer of a security listed or applying to list on the Exchange (''Company'') an additional 180-day compliance period for deficiencies related to the beneficial holder continued listing requirement that require submission of a Plan of Compliance under Rule 14.12(f).[3] The Commission has received two comments on the proposal.[4] As discussed further below, this order approves the proposed rule change.

II. Description of the Proposal

As described in greater detail in the Notice, Exchange Rule 14.12 generally governs the procedures for the independent review, suspension, and delisting of Companies that fail to satisfy one or more standards for initial or continued listing on the Exchange.[5] When Exchange Staff determines that a Company does not meet a listing standard, including the beneficial holder continued listing requirement, Exchange Staff will immediately notify the Company of the deficiency; and, unless the Company is currently under review by an Adjudicatory Body for an Exchange Staff Delisting Determination, Exchange Staff may accept and review a plan to regain compliance (a ''Company Compliance Plan'').[6] Upon review of a Company Compliance Plan, the Exchange may grant an extension of time to regain compliance not greater than 180 calendar days from the date of Exchange Staff's initial notification.[7]

The Exchange proposed to adopt new Exchange Rule 14.12(f)(2)(B)(ii) to permit Exchange Staff to grant an additional cure period of 180 calendar days for deficiencies related to the beneficial holders continued listing requirement, with such total cure period not to exceed a total of 360 calendar days from the date of the Exchange's initial notification.[8] The proposed rule change applies to all exchange-traded products (''ETPs'' or ''products'') eligible to list pursuant to Exchange Rule 14.11, and any issuer that demonstrates quantifiable progress toward compliance with the beneficial holder requirement during the initial 180-day compliance period may be granted the additional time at Exchange Staff's discretion.[9]

III. Discussion, Comments, and Commission Findings

The Exchange states that, given that the beneficial holder requirement is a quantifiable standard, Exchange Staff can readily assess whether a product is nearing compliance by reviewing periodic beneficial holder counts and determining whether the product has shown measurable improvement, and may consider whether the beneficial holder count has increased by a meaningful percentage during the initial compliance period, whether the rate of holder accumulation is accelerating, or whether the product has achieved a threshold number of holders indicating that compliance is likely within the

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] *See* Securities Exchange Act Release No. 104744 (January 29, 2026), 91 FR 4990 (February 3, 2026) (''Notice''). *See also* Exchange Rule 14.12(b)(7) (defining ''Listing Qualifications Department''); Exchange Rule 14.1(a)(3) (defining ''Company'' as the issuer of a security listed or applying to list on the Exchange, includes an issuer that is not incorporated, such as, for example, a limited partnership). The ''beneficial holders'' continued listing requirement refers to the record and/or beneficial holders requirement. *See* Exchange Rules 14.11(b)(9)(B)(i)(a), 14.11(c)(9)(B)(i)(a), 14.11(e)(4)(I)(i), 14.11(e)(5)(E)(ii)(a), 14.11(e)(6)(E)(ii)(a), 14.11(e)(7)(E)(ii)(a), 14.11(e)(8)(D)(ii)(a), 14.11(e)(9)(D)(ii)(a)(1), 14.11(e)(10)(E)(ii)(d)(1), 14.11(f)(2)(D)(ii)(a), 14.11(f)(4)(C)(ii)(a), 14.11(i)(4)(B)(iii)(a), 14.11(k)(4)(B)(ii)(a), 14.11(l)(4)(B)(i)(c), 14.11(m)(4)(B)(iv)(a), and 14.11(n)(4)(B)(i)(c).

[4] *See* Letter to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Commission, from Kevin Ehrlich, Managing Director, Asset Management Group of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, dated February 24, 2026 (''SIFMA Letter'') and Letter to Vanessa Countryman, Secretary, Commission, from Stuart S. Parker, President, PGIM Investments LLC, dated February 24, 2026 (''PGIM Letter''). Comments received on the proposed rule change are available at *https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/public-comments/sr-cboebzx-2026-005.*

[5] *See* Notice at 4990–91.

[6] *See id.* at 4991.

[7] *See id.*

[8] *See id.* A Company currently under review by an Adjudicatory Body for an Exchange Staff Delisting Determination will not be eligible for this additional extension. If Exchange Staff grants an extension, it will inform the Company in writing of the basis for granting the extension and the terms of the extension. *See id.*

[9] *See id.*

extended period.[10] The Exchange states that this discretionary approach ensures that the additional 180 days is granted only to products demonstrating genuine progress toward compliance.[11]

While the proposed rule change applies uniformly to all products, the Exchange states that certain products—for example, ''Outcome Strategy ETPs''—may face unique challenges in achieving beneficial holder requirements within the initial 180-day timeframe, particularly where a tranche of funds that seeks to achieve its investment objective through a laddered portfolio of the fund's investment in multiple underlying ETFs that have outcome period expiration dates which occur on a rolling, or staggered, basis and where each tranche represents a different starting point within the same overall strategy.[12] The Exchange believes that the threat of delisting to a single tranche of such a series impairs the fund manager's ability to distribute and maintain the entire series and, unlike ETPs where one product's delisting does not affect other products, laddered portfolios are marketed, distributed, and understood by investors as complete series.[13] The Exchange states that an incomplete series may cause market participants to abandon the entire product resulting in asset outflows and beneficial holder reductions across all tranches, including those in full compliance with listing standards.[14] The Exchange states that many investors in Outcome Strategy ETFs roll assets into the next ''front-month'' or near-dated tranche as their current holdings approach expiration, and near-term tranches may accumulate assets and beneficial holders while tranches further from expiration tend to see less interest, fewer assets, and fewer beneficial holders.[15] Thus, tranches farther from expiration may temporarily fall below the beneficial holder threshold during their early life, but cure as they become front-month tranches and attract rolling assets from maturing positions.[16] The Exchange states that the initial 180-day timeframe may be insufficient for a newly-launched or back-dated tranche to progress through this natural maturation cycle and benefit from the rolling behavior that drives holder accumulation.[17]

The Exchange states that the proposed extended compliance period provides issuers with sufficient time to implement comprehensive remediation strategies that stabilize integrated product series, protecting the interests of holders across all tranches and preventing unnecessary market disruption.[18] The Exchange states that the extended compliance period can apply to any product where premature delisting based on temporary beneficial holder deficiencies could harm investors when the issuer is making measurable progress toward compliance.[19] The Exchange further states that a 180-day compliance period may be insufficient in certain circumstances where issuers are making genuine progress toward compliance but require additional time to achieve the listing standard due to product-specific characteristics, market conditions, or other factors affecting beneficial holder accumulation; and that the additional cure period provides appropriate flexibility to prevent premature delistings of products that are demonstrably moving toward compliance.[20]

The Commission received two comment letters, both supporting the proposed rule change.[21] One commenter acknowledged that it can be challenging for new funds to develop a broad shareholder base, and stating that the additional compliance period would not be an automatic or indefinite extension of the compliance period, but instead permits the Exchange to take into account tangible progress toward meeting the beneficial holder requirement.[22] Another commenter stated that the proposed rule change provides a measured and appropriate degree of flexibility for issuers that are making demonstrable progress toward regaining compliance while maintaining the integrity of existing standards, reduces the risk of unnecessary or premature delistings, promotes orderly markets and mitigates potential disruption to investors without weakening investor protections.[23] One commenter specifically states that some laddered strategies utilize a tranche of ETFs, which each have their own unique date parameters, and the dynamics and timing of such strategies have implications for beneficial shareholder activity as the strategy goes through its expected life cycle.[24] The commenter additionally states that later-dated ETFs are a part of the overall strategy, but would not be expected to attract assets in the same way as stand-alone products.[25]

The Exchange also states that NYSE Arca rules do not explicitly set forth the parameters of its staff review of a compliance plan and that NYSE Arca's internal policies provide NYSE Arca staff with discretion in determining how to handle failures to meet continued listing standards,[26] and that the Exchange's proposed rule change would better align its rules with NYSE Arca.[27] The Exchange states that, without the proposed rule change, issuers—and particularly those of ETPs with unique structural characteristics—might favor listing on other exchanges that provide greater flexibility in compliance timeframes, which could disadvantage the Exchange and reduce competition among listing venues.[28]

After careful review, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange.[29] In particular, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with Sections 6(b)(5) of the Act which requires, among other things, that the rules of a national securities exchange be designed to prevent fraudulent and manipulative acts and practices, to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general, to protect investors and the

[10] *See id.*

[11] *See id.*

[12] *See id.* The Exchange defines Outcome Strategy ETPs as multiple ETPs listed by an issuer that are each designed to provide (i) a pre-defined set of returns; (ii) over a specified outcome period; (iii) based on the performance of the same underlying instruments; and (iv) each employ the same outcome strategy for achieving the pre-defined set of returns.

[13] *See id.*

[14] *See id.*

[15] *See id.*

[16] *See id.*

[17] *See id.*

[18] *See id.* at 4993.

[19] *See id.*

[20] *See id.* at 4991 and 4992–93. The Exchange also states that the minimum beneficial holder requirement itself remains unchanged at 50 beneficial holders, and all other continued listing standards continue to apply without modification. *See id.* at 4992–93. The Exchange further states that companies currently under review by an Adjudicatory Body for an Exchange Staff Delisting Determination are ineligible for the additional extension, ensuring that the extended compliance period is not used to indefinitely delay delisting proceedings. *See id.*

[21] *See* SIFMA Letter and PGIM Letter.

[22] *See* SIFMA Letter at 1–2.

[23] *See* PGIM Letter at 2.

[24] *See* SIFMA Letter at 2.

[25] *See id.* at 2.

[26] *See* Notice at 4991–92 (citing 2025_NYSE_Arca_Listed_ETP_Compliance_Guidance_Letter.pdf which states that NYSE Arca staff will conduct its own review and make a determination on how to proceed with non-compliance with continued listing standards).

[27] *See id.* at 4992.

[28] *See id.* at 4993–94.

[29] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b). In approving this proposed rule change, the Commission has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. *See* 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

public interest; and not be designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers or dealers.[30] The Exchange will grant the extended 180-day compliance period based on whether issuers are making genuine progress toward compliance, and such extensions can minimize the likelihood of market disruptions while maintaining meaningful compliance pressure through Exchange Staff's ongoing review of beneficial holder trends. Additionally, discretion in extending the compliance period beyond the initial 180 days already exists on another exchange. For these reasons, the Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act [31] that the proposed rule change (SR–CboeBZX–2026–005) be, and hereby is, approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[32]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05022 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104966; File No. SR–MRX–2026–05]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq MRX, LLC; Notice of Filing of a Proposed Rule Change To Adopt New Options Rule 3B To List and Trade Outcome-Related Options

March 11, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Act''),[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] notice is hereby given that on March 2, 2026, Nasdaq MRX, LLC (''MRX'' or ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') a proposed rule change as described in Items I and II below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

[30] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[31] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

[32] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to list and trade Outcome-Related Options or ''OROs.''

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at *https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/mrx/rulefilings,* and at the principal office of the Exchange.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange's proposal adopts rules at new Options 3B to govern the listing and trading of cash-settled, European-style binary options [3] referred to as Outcome-Related Options or ''OROs.'' The Exchange proposes to list and trade OROs on the Nasdaq-100® Index (''NDX®'') [4] as ''Nasdaq-100® OROs.'' The Exchange also proposes to list and trade OROs on the Nasdaq-100 Micro Index® (''XND®'') [5] as ''XND OROs.''

OROs on NDX and XND are distinguishable from NDX options and XND options. OROs would entitle the buyer to receive, or the seller to pay, a fixed amount at expiration [6] based on whether the settlement price of the underlying is at, above, or below a predetermined strike price at expiration. Unlike traditional NDX options and XND options, OROs will pay a fixed sum at expiration regardless of the magnitude of the difference between the settlement value and the option's exercise price.[7]

OROs will provide investors with the ability to transact options that pay a fixed sum at expiration on a listed exchange market subject to the benefits of a centralized forum for price discovery; pre- and post-trade transparency; standardized contract specifications; real-time surveillance; and clearing guaranteed by The Options Clearing Corporation (''OCC'').

As proposed, new Options 3B, would be titled ''Outcome-Related Options.''

General Provisions

The Exchange proposes to titled Section 1 ''General Provisions.'' The trading of OROs will be subject to all rules applicable to options on the Exchange, including, without limitation, trading rules, listing rules and business conduct rules. The Exchange proposes new Options 3B to address rule differences that are unique to the trading of OROs while maintaining the applicability of the broader rulebook.

Pursuant to Options 3B, Section 1(a), titled ''Applicability of Exchange Rules,'' Options 3B Rules will apply only to Outcome-Related Options or ''OROs.'' Further, the trading of OROs will be subject to all other Rules applicable to the trading of options on

[3] The characteristics of binary options are described in The Options Disclosure Document or ODD. *See https://www.theocc.com/getcontentasset/a151a9ae-d784-4a15-bdeb-23a029f50b70/dfc3d011-8f63-43f6-9ed8-4b444333a1d0/riskstoc.pdf.*

[4] The Nasdaq-100 Index is a modified market capitalization-weighted index that includes 100 of the largest non-financial companies listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC, based on market capitalization. It does not contain securities of financial companies, including investment companies. Security types generally eligible for the Nasdaq-100 Index include common stocks, ordinary shares, American Depository Receipts, and tracking stocks. Security or company types not included in the Nasdaq-100 Index are closed-end funds, convertible debentures, exchange traded funds, limited liability companies, limited partnership interests, preferred stocks, rights, shares or units of beneficial interest, warrants, units and other derivative securities. A description of the Nasdaq-100 Index is available on Nasdaq's website at *https://indexes.nasdaqomx.com/docs/methodology_NDX.pdf.* The Nasdaq-100 Index is a broad-based index, as defined in Options 4A, Section 3. *See also: https://www.nasdaq.com/NDX_NDXP_Factsheet.*

[5] The Nasdaq-100 Micro Index or XND is designed to reflect 1/100th the value of the Nasdaq-100 Index. *See https://www.nasdaq.com/docs/2023/08/14/XND_FactSheet.pdf.*

[6] Rules for binary return options products currently exist on NYSE American LLC (''NYSE American'') and Cboe Exchange, Inc. (''Cboe''). *See* Securities Exchange Act Release Nos. 55843 (June 1, 2007), 72 FR 31636 (June 7, 2007) (Notice); 56251 (August 14, 2007), 72 FR 46523 (August 20, 2007) (Approval) (SR–Amex–2004–27); 57642 (April 9, 2008), 73 FR 20985 (April 17, 2008) (Notice); 57850 (May 22, 2008), 73 FR 31169 (May 30, 2008) (Approval) (SR–CBOE–2006–105). *See also* Cboe Exchange, Inc. Rules related to Binary Options as described at Rule 4.16 and NYSE American LLC Rules related to ByRDs at Section 17 of NYSE American's Rules.

[7] In contrast, traditional NDX options and XND options give the holder the right, but not the obligation to buy or sell an underlying asset, in this case the Nasdaq-100 Index or the 1/100th the value of the Nasdaq-100 Index, respectively, at a specified price before or at expiration.

the Exchange, including the trading rules and functionality in Options 3, unless the context otherwise requires or otherwise provided in this Options 3B.[8] For example, the Opening Process at Options 3, Section 8; Trading Halts at Options 3, Section 9; simple, complex and optional risk protections at Options 3, Sections 15, 16 and 28; and Market Maker appointments at Options 2, Section 3 and obligations at Option 2, Section 5 shall all apply to the trading of OROs as they apply to the trading of other options on the Exchange.

The Exchange proposes the following definitions at Options 3B, Section 1(b), titled ''Definitions,'' that would apply to Options 3B rules:

- The term ''contract multiplier'' as used in reference to OROs means the multiple applied to the exercise settlement value to arrive at the total exercise settlement amount per contract. The contract multiplier for OROs shall be $100.[9]
- The term ''exercise price'' as used in reference to OROs means the value to which the settlement value of the underlying is compared to determine whether the holder of an ORO is entitled to a pay out on the option contract.[10]
- The term ''exercise settlement amount'' as used in reference to OROs means the amount of cash that a holder will receive upon exercise of the contract. The exercise settlement amount is $100. The underlying is used to determine whether a binary option is in, at or out of the money.[11]
- The term ''OROs'' represents binary options on the underlying.[12]
- The term ''OROs Order'' means an order submitted in an ORO pursuant to Options 3B.[13]
- The term ''settlement value'' is the value of the underlying that is used to determine whether an ORO is in, at or out of the money. OROs that are ''at-the-money,'' ''in-the-money,'' or ''out-of-the-money'' are a function of the settlement value of the underlying in relation to the type of ORO (*i.e.,* put or call) and the exercise price. OROs shall be paid out if the settlement value of the underlying equals, exceeds or is less than the exercise price, depending on the type of option (*i.e.,* call or put).[14]
  - OROs that are call option contracts would return an exercise settlement amount if the settlement value of the underlying is at or above the exercise price at expiration (*i.e.,* in- or at-the-money).[15]
  - OROs that are put option contracts would return an exercise settlement amount if the settlement value of the underlying is below the exercise price at expiration (*i.e.,* in-the-money).[16]
- The term ''underlying'' means the security that the Clearing Corporation[17] shall utilize to determine whether an ORO is in, at or out of the money. With respect to an index, the underlying shall mean any of the securities that are the basis for the calculation of the index.[18]

OROs contracts would have an exercise settlement amount that is established at the creation of the option of $100 for an OROs Order pursuant to Options 3B, Section 1(b)(3). OROs would be paid out if the settlement value of the underlying equals, exceeds or is less than the exercise price, depending on the type of option (*i.e.,* call or put).[19] As proposed, a call option on OROs would pay $1.00 if the settlement price is at or above the strike price at expiration.[20] Conversely, a put option on OROs would pay $1.00 per contract if the settlement price is below the strike price at expiration.[21] The ''settlement value'' for OROs shall be the price of the underlying that is used to determine whether an ORO is in, at or out of the money.[22] The underlying shall mean the security that the Clearing Corporation would utilize to determine whether an ORO is in, at or out of the money.[23] In the case of an index, the underlying shall mean any of the securities that are the basis for the calculation of the index.[24] An OROs Order would mean an order submitted in an ORO pursuant to Options 3B.[25]

Hours of Business

Section 2 of Options 3B would be titled ''Hours of Business.'' Pursuant to proposed Options 3B, Section 1(c), the trading hours for OROs would be the same as the trading hours as set forth in Options 3, Section 1.[26]

Units of Trading and Premium

Section 3 of Options 3B would be titled ''Units of Trading and Premium.'' Pursuant to proposed Options 3B, Section 3(a), bids and offers for OROs must be expressed in U.S. dollars.[27] Pursuant to proposed Options 3B, Section 3(b), OROs may have a premium range[28] from $0.01 to $1.00.[29]

Minimum Trading Increment

Section 4 of Options 3B would be titled ''Minimum Trading Increments.'' Pursuant to proposed Options 3B, Section 4(a), OROs may be entered in a minimum increment of $0.01. Today, NDX options trade in $0.05 and $0.10 increments pursuant to Options 3, Section 3(a). Today, XND options trade in $0.01 increments.[30] The Exchange notes that Cboe Rule 5.4(c)(1) permits binary options with a minimum increment of $0.01.[31]

The Exchange notes that MRX Options 4A Rules are incorporated by reference to Nasdaq ISE, LLC (''ISE'') Options 4A Rules. ISE Supplementary Material .04 to Options 3, Section 3, Minimum Trading Increments, notes that XND options trade in $0.01 increments.[32] At this time, the Exchange proposes to add rule text to MRX Supplementary Material .04 to Options 3, Section 3, Minimum Trading Increments, that is identical to ISE Supplementary Material .04 to Options 3, Section 3 to make clear that XND trades in a $0.01 increment.

Listings

Section 5 of Options 3B would be titled ''Listings.'' Pursuant to proposed Options 3B, Section 5(a), titled ''OROs Classes,'' the Exchange authorizes OROs on the Nasdaq-100 Index or NDX (''Nasdaq-100 OROs'') and on the Nasdaq-100 Micro Index or XND (''XND OROs''). The listing of Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs would be subject to Options 4A Rules[33] unless otherwise specified. Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs will trade independently of and

[8] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(a).
[9] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(1).
[10] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(2).
[11] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(3).
[12] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(4).
[13] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(5).
[14] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(6).
[15] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(6)(a).
[16] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(6)(b).
[17] The term ''Clearing Corporation'' means The Options Clearing Corporation. *See* General 1, Section 1(a)(3).
[18] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(7).
[19] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(6).
[20] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(6)(a).
[21] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(6)(b).
[22] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(6)(b).
[23] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(7).
[24] *See id.*
[25] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(b)(5).
[26] Options 3, Section 1(d) provides that options on a broad-based index, as defined in Options 4A, Section 2 may be traded on the Exchange until 4:15 p.m. each business day.
[27] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 3(a).
[28] The premium is the price paid or received when entering an OROs Order.
[29] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 3(b).
[30] *See* ISE Supplementary Material .04 to Options 3, Section 3.
[31] Cboe Rule 5.4(c)(1) states that the exchange establishes the minimum increment for bids and offers on orders for binary options on a class-by-class basis, which may not be less than $0.01.
[32] Specifically, ISE Supplementary Material .04 to Options 3, Section 3 states that, Options on the Nasdaq 100 Micro Index (XND) (as long as QQQ options (''QQQ'') participate in the Penny Interval Program) shall have a minimum increment of $.01.
[33] As noted above, MRX incorporates ISE Options 4A Rules by reference.

in addition to other standard options on NDX or XND, respectively.

Similar to NDX and XND options,[34] Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs will be P.M.-settled.[35] Options 3B, Section 5(a)(1) would be titled ''P.M.-Settled'' and state, that the Exchange authorizes P.M.-Settled Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs pursuant to Options 4A, Section 12(a)(5). As a result, exercise will result in delivery of cash on the business day following expiration.[36]

Similar to NDX and XND options,[37] Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs shall be subject to the Nonstandard Expirations Program pursuant to Supplementary Material .07 to Options 4A, Section 12.[38] Options 3B, Section 5(a)(2) would be titled ''Nonstandards Expiration Program.'' The Nonstandard Expirations Program would permit Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs to open for trading weekly expirations that expire on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday (other than the third Friday-of-the-month or days that coincide with an EOM expiration).

Further, as proposed, similar to NDX options and XND options,[39] the Exchange may also list (i) Nasdaq-100 OROs whose settlement value is the price of the Nasdaq-100 Index as reported by The Nasdaq Stock Market, LLC (''Nasdaq'') at the conclusion of the Nasdaq Closing Cross pursuant to Nasdaq Equity 4, Rule 4757 [40] (P.M.-Settled third Friday-of-the-month NDX options series); and (ii) XND OROs whose settlement value is derived from the price of the Nasdaq-100 Index as reported by Nasdaq at the conclusion of the Nasdaq Closing Cross pursuant to Nasdaq Equity 4, Rule 4757 (P.M.-Settled).[41]

As proposed in Options 3B, Section 5(a)(3), the reporting authority for Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs shall be The Nasdaq Stock Market. Options 3B, Section 5(a)(3) would be titled ''Reporting Authority.''

Pursuant to proposed Options 3B, Section 5(b), titled ''Permissible Series,'' the Exchange approves Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs for listing and trading pursuant to Options 3B. Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs are a separate class from other options overlying the Nasdaq-100 Index.

Similar to NDX and XND options,[42] Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs may expire at three (3)-month intervals, in consecutive weeks or in consecutive months and may list up to 12 standard (monthly) expirations.[43] Similar to NDX and XND options,[44] Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs shall be European-style exercise.[45]

Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs would be subject to the provisions of Options 4A with respect to weekly expirations provided, however, that weekly expirations would only be P.M.-Settled.[46] New series in weekly expirations on Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs may be added up to and including on the expiration date for an expiring weekly expiration. Further, the Exchange may open for trading end of month (EOM) expirations on Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs to expire on last trading day of the month. EOMs on OROs would be subject to all provisions of Options 4A, except that EOMs on Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs shall only be P.M.-Settled. New series in EOMs on Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs may be added up to and including on the expiration date for an expiring EOM. Finally, the Exchange may list long term index options series (''LEAPS'') on Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs that expire from twelve (12) to sixty (60) months from the date of issuance.[47]

Proposed Options 3B, Section 5(c), titled ''Terms,'' provides the terms for submitting an ORO Order for a OROs series to the System, the submitting Member must include one of each of the following terms in the OROs Order: (1) underlying index (the contract multiplier is 100); (2) type of option (*i.e.,* put or call); (3) expiration date; and (4) exercise price.[48]

Proposed Options 3B, Section 5(d), titled ''Determination of Settlement Value,'' provides the determination for settlement value. For Nasdaq-100 OROs, the settlement value shall be the price of the Nasdaq-100 Index as reported by Nasdaq at the conclusion of the Nasdaq Closing Cross pursuant to Nasdaq Equity 4, Rule 4757. The settlement value for XND OROs shall be a price that is derived from the price of the Nasdaq-100 Index as reported by Nasdaq at the conclusion of the Nasdaq Closing Cross pursuant to Nasdaq Equity 4, Rule 4757.

Proposed Options 3B, Section 5(e), titled ''Adjustment,'' provides the manner in which adjustments will be handled. OROs contracts are subject to adjustment only in accordance with and to the extent specified in the By-Laws and Rules of the Clearing Corporation. When any such adjustment has been determined, an announcement shall be made by the Exchange and shall become effective as of the time specified in such announcement.

Proposed Options 3B, Section 5(f), titled ''Position Limits,'' states that the position limits for OROs in Options 4A, Section 6, Position Limits for Broad-Based Index Options, shall not apply to OROs, rather the position limits for OROs shall be equal to 25,000 contracts on the same side of the market. Position limits in OROs shall not be aggregated with other options contracts for the underlying. OROs shall not be subject to the exemptions from position limits in Options 4A, Section 9, Exemptions from Position Limits.

Further, proposed Options 3B, Section 5(f)(1), titled ''Reporting of Position Limits,'' states that with respect to positions in OROs, the minimum position in an account which must be reported shall be 200 contracts.[49] Pursuant to Options 3B, Section 5(f)(1)(a), titled ''Market Side,'' for purposes of the position limits set forth subparagraph (f) of this Rule, long positions in put OROs and short positions in call OROs shall be considered to be on the same side of the market; and short positions in put OROs and long positions in call OROs shall be considered to be on the same side of the market.

Proposed Options 3B, Section 5(g), titled ''Exercise Limits,'' the exercise limits specified in Options 4A, Section 10, Exercise Limits, shall not apply to OROs. OROs will automatically be

[34] Today, the Exchange authorizes P.M.-Settled NDX and XND options pursuant to Options 4A, Section 12(a)(6)(i).

[35] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(a)(1). Of note, Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs would not trade A.M.-Settled. Today, NDX options trade A.M.-Settled.

[36] The last day of trading for P.M.-settled index options shall be the business day of expiration, or, in the case of an option contract expiring on a day that is not a business day, on the last business day before its expiration date. *See* Options 4A, Section 12(a)(6).

[37] Today, NDX options and XND options are subject to the Nonstandard Expirations Program as specified in Supplementary Material .07 to Options 4A, Section 12.

[38] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(a)(2).

[39] Today, NDX options and XND options may also list options whose exercise settlement value is the closing value of the Nasdaq-100 Index on the expiration day (P.M.-settled third Friday-of-the-month NDX options series) and the Nasdaq 100 Micro Index (''XND'') whose exercise settlement value is derived from closing prices on the expiration day (''P.M.-settled''). *See* Options 4A, Section 12(a)(6)(i).

[40] The Nasdaq Closing Cross is Nasdaq's auction process used to determine the official closing price of Nasdaq-listed securities at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. *See* Equity 4, Rule 4757. As explained in this proposal, OROs will be P.M.-Settled.

[41] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(a)(2)(a).

[42] *See* Options 4A, Section 12(a)(3).

[43] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(b)(1).

[44] *See* Options 4A, Section 12(a)(4).

[45] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(b)(2).

[46] Today, NDX options are both A.M.-Settled and P.M.-Settled.

[47] *See* Options 4A, Section 12(b)(2) and (3).

[48] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(c).

[49] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(f)(1).

exercised at expiration if the settlement value of the underlying is equal to or greater than the exercise price of call OROs or less than the exercise price in the case of put OROs. Further, OROs are not subject to the rules in: (i) Options 6B, Exercises and Deliveries; and (ii) Options 9, Section 10, Other Restrictions on Options Transactions and Exercise, as that Section 10 relates to exercises.

Types of Orders; Order and Quote Protocols

Options 3B, Section 6 shall be titled ''Types of Orders; Order and Quote Protocols.'' The Exchange may determine to make any eligible order types and times-in-force, respectively, in Options 3, Section 7, Types of Orders and Order and Quote Protocols, available on a class or System basis to be submitted as OROs Orders. Eligible OROs Orders shall include all order types in Options 3, Section 7 except for: (1) Market Orders at Options 3, Section 7(a); (2) Stop Orders at Options 3, Section 7(d); and (3) Stop Limit Orders at Options 3, Section 7(e).

Pursuant to Options 3B, Section 6(b), all order and quote protocols in Supplementary Material .03 to Options 3, Section 7 are available for OROs.

Pursuant to Options 3B, Section 6(c), OROs Orders may be submitted in both simple and complex order books. OROs Orders may be entered as complex orders as specified in Options 3, Section 14, except that a Stock-Complex Order as defined in Options 3, Section 14(a)(3) is not permitted. OROs Orders may be submitted into any of the auction mechanisms specified in Options 3, Sections 11 (Auction Mechanisms) or 13 (Price Improvement Mechanism for Crossing Transactions). OROs Orders may be submitted as a Crossing Orders, as specified in Options 3, Section 12, except that OROs Orders may not be submitted as a Qualified Contingent Cross Order or a Complex Qualified Contingent Cross Order subject to Options 3, Section 12(c) and (d), respectively.

Obvious Errors

Options 3B, Section 7, shall be titled ''Obvious Error.'' Pursuant to Options 3B, Section 7(a), for purposes of OROs Orders, the Obvious Error provisions in Options 3, Section 20, Nullification and Adjustment of Options Transactions including Obvious Errors, shall apply except that with respect to Options 3, Section 20(c), the adjusted price (including any applicable adjustment under subparagraph (c)(4)(A) for Non-Customer transactions) shall not exceed the applicable exercise settlement amount for OROs, which is $1.

Suitability and Risk Disclosures

Market participants that elect to transact in OROs should receive a copy of the ODD from their broker-dealer.[50] The ODD explains the risks inherent in options trading and binary options.[51] Broker-dealers must have a reasonable basis to believe that a recommended transaction or investment strategy involving a security or securities is suitable for the customer.[52] Suitability rules are intended to distinguish the trading of customers with those of professional traders who are likely to have distinct risk/reward profiles, risk tolerance and capital.

Surveillance

Today, the Exchange has an adequate surveillance program in place for options. The Exchange intends to apply those same program procedures to OROs that it applies to the Exchange's other options products.[53] Additionally, the Exchange is a member of the Intermarket Surveillance Group (''ISG'') under the Intermarket Surveillance Group Agreement. ISG members work together to coordinate surveillance and investigative information sharing in the stock, options, and futures markets. Further, the Exchange has a Regulatory Services Agreement (''RSA'') with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (''FINRA''). Pursuant to a multi-party 17d–2 joint plan, all options exchanges allocate regulatory responsibilities to FINRA to conduct certain options-related market surveillance that are common to rules of all options exchanges. The Exchange believes that its existing surveillance and reporting safeguards are designed to deter and detect possible manipulative behavior which might potentially arise from listing and trading OROs.

Capacity

The Exchange represents that it has the necessary systems capacity to support trading OROs. Further, the Exchange believes that the Options Price Reporting Authority or ''OPRA'' has the necessary systems capacity to handle the additional traffic associated with the listing of OROs series. Because the proposal is limited to one class, the Exchange believes any additional traffic that may be generated from the introduction of Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs will be manageable.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,[54] in general, and furthers the objectives of Section 6(b)(5) of the Act,[55] in particular, in that it is designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, and, in general to protect investors and the public interest.

OROs will provide investors with the ability to transact options that pay a fixed sum at expiration on a listed exchange market subject to the benefits of a centralized forum for price discovery; pre- and post-trade transparency; standardized contract specifications; real-time surveillance; and the centralized clearing guaranteed by OCC, thereby promoting just and equitable principles of trade. Further, the introduction of OROs will provide advantages to the investing public that are not provided for by other options overlying the Nasdaq-100 Index. OROs offer investors a relatively low risk security where the risk reduction results from knowing the maximum risk exposure when the contract is written. While there may be variations in the exercise settlement amount, the maximum exercise settlement amount is set at listing, and the maximum risk therefore is limited and known at listing. Also, as proposed, the trading of OROs will be subject to all other Rules applicable to the trading of options on the Exchange, including, without limitation, the trading rules, listing rules and business conduct rules, unless the context otherwise requires or otherwise provided in Options 3B.[56]

The Exchange proposes a minimum increment of $0.01 for Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs. Today, NDX options trade in $0.05 and $0.10 increments[57] and XND options trade in $0.01 increments.[58] The Exchange believes that the proposed minimum increment, which is identical to Cboe's

[50] *See* FINRA Rule 2360(b)(16)(A).

[51] *See supra* note 3.

[52] *See* FINRA Rule 2111.

[53] The surveillance program includes real-time patterns for price and volume movements and post-trade surveillance patterns (*e.g.,* spoofing, marking the close, pinging, phishing).

[54] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

[55] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

[56] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 1(a). For example, the Opening Process at Options 3, Section 8; Trading Halts at Options 3, Section 9; simple, complex and optional risk protections at Options 3, Sections 15, 16 and 28; and Market Maker appointments at Options 2, Section 3 and obligations at Option 2, Section 5 shall all apply to the trading of OROs as they apply to the trading of other options on the Exchange.

[57] *See* Options 3, Section 3(a).

[58] *See* ISE Supplementary Material .04 to Options 3, Section 3.

increment for binary options,[59] will permit these options to trade in intervals similar to other index products in the industry. Further, adding rule text at MRX Supplementary Material .04 to Options 3, Section 3 that is identical to ISE Supplementary Material .04 to Options 3, Section 3 is consistent with the Act because it will make clear that XND trades in a $0.01 increment.[60]

The remainder of the proposed rules permit trading in Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs in a manner similar to the trading of NDX options and XND options, respectively. Similar to NDX options and XND options,[61] Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs will be P.M.-settled.[62] Similar to NDX options and XND options,[63] Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs would be subject to the Nonstandard Expirations Program as specified in Supplementary Material .07 to Options 4A, Section 12.[64] Similar to NDX options,[65] the Exchange may also list Nasdaq-100 OROs whose settlement value is the price of the Nasdaq-100 Index as reported by Nasdaq at the conclusion of the Nasdaq Closing Cross pursuant to Nasdaq Equity 4, Rule 4757 (P.M.-settled third Friday-of-the-month).[66] Similar to XND options, the Exchange may also list XND OROs who settlement value price is derived from the price of the Nasdaq-100 Index as reported by Nasdaq at the conclusion of the Nasdaq Closing Cross pursuant to Nasdaq Equity 4, Rule 4757. Similar to NDX options and XND options,[67] Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs may expire at three (3)-month intervals, in consecutive weeks or in consecutive months and may list up to 12 standard (monthly) expirations.[68]

The Exchange's proposed position limit for the OROs of 25,000 contracts on the same side[69] promotes just and equitable principles of trade. The proposed position limit of 25,000 contracts reasonably balances the promotion of a free and open market for these securities with minimization of incentives for market manipulation. A position limit of 25,000 contracts is the lowest position limit available in the options industry. The proposed position limit is conservative given the size and liquidity of Nasdaq-100 Index constituents, thereby substantially reducing the feasibility of price distortion. Further the price of each constituent in the Nasdaq-100 Index is independently formed, therefore there is no single price input that determines the index, rather the various market prices are aggregated. Finally, the Nasdaq-100 reflects continuous market pricing of constituents. As proposed the closing price is based on the Nasdaq Closing Cross, a robust auction mechanism with significant volume and oversight and the highest-volume trading event of the day for securities comprising the Nasdaq-100 Index. Therefore, the proposed position limit is consistent with the Act as it addresses concerns related to manipulation and protection of investors because the position limit is extremely conservative and more than appropriate.

The proposed adjustments to OROs with respect to the Obvious Error provisions[70] are designed to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and to remove impediments to and perfect the mechanism of a free and open market and a national market system, as the proposal would ensure that OROs Orders that are deemed Obvious Errors are appropriately adjusted given the nature of these contracts.

Further, market participants that elect to transact in OROs should receive a copy of the ODD from their broker-dealer.[71] The ODD explains the risks inherent in options trading and binary options.[72] Broker-dealers must have a reasonable basis to believe that a recommended transaction or investment strategy involving a security or securities is suitable for the customer.[73] Suitability rules are intended to distinguish the trading of customers with those of professional traders who are likely to have distinct risk/reward profiles, risk tolerance and capital. These measures are all designed to protect investors and the public interest.

Today, the Exchange has an adequate surveillance program in place for options. The Exchange intends to apply those same program procedures to OROs that apply to the Exchange's other options products.[74] Additionally, the Exchange is a member of ISG under the Intermarket Surveillance Group Agreement. ISG members work together to coordinate surveillance and investigative information sharing in the stock, options, and futures markets. In addition, the Exchange has an RSA with the FINRA. Pursuant to a multi-party 17d–2 joint plan, all options exchanges allocate regulatory responsibilities to FINRA to conduct certain options-related market surveillance that are common to rules of all options exchanges. The Exchange believes that its existing surveillance and reporting safeguards are designed to deter and detect possible manipulative behavior which might potentially arise from listing and trading OROs.

Finally, the Exchange represents that it has the necessary systems capacity to support trading OROs. Further, the Exchange believes that OPRA has the necessary systems capacity to handle the additional traffic associated with the listing of OROs series. Because the proposal is limited to one class, the Exchange believes any additional traffic that may be generated from the introduction of Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs will be manageable.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

The Exchange's proposal to list Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition as any Member may transact OROs.

The Exchange's proposal to list Nasdaq-100 OROs and XND OROs does not impose an undue burden on inter-market competition as competitors have rules for similar products.[75]

[59] Cboe Rule 5.4(c)(1) states that the exchange establishes the minimum increment for bids and offers on orders for binary options on a class-by-class basis, which may not be less than $0.01.

[60] Proposed MRX Supplementary Material .04 to Options 3, Section 3 would state that, Options on the Nasdaq 100 Micro Index (XND) (as long as QQQ options (''QQQ'') participate in the Penny Interval Program) shall have a minimum increment of $.01.

[61] Today, the Exchange authorizes P.M.-Settled NDX options and XND options pursuant to Options 4A, Section 12(a)(6).

[62] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(a)(1).

[63] Today, NDX options and XND options are subject to the Nonstandard Expirations Program as specified in Supplementary Material .07 to Options 4A, Section 12.

[64] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(a)(2).

[65] Today, NDX options and XND options may also list options whose exercise settlement value is the closing value of the Nasdaq-100 Index on the expiration day (P.M.-settled third Friday-of-the-month NDX options series) and the Nasdaq 100 Micro Index (''XND'') whose exercise settlement value is derived from closing prices on the expiration day (''P.M.-settled''). *See* Options 4A, Section 12(a)(6)(i).

[66] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(a)(2)(a).

[67] *See* Options 4A, Section 12(a)(3).

[68] *See* proposed Options 3B, Section 5(b)(1).

[69] Position limits in OROs would not be aggregated with other options contracts where the overlying is the Nasdaq-100 Index. OROs shall not be subject to the exemptions from position limits in Options 4A, Section 9.

[70] *See* Options 3B, Section 7.

[71] *See* FINRA Rule 2360(b)(16)(A).

[72] *See supra* note 3.

[73] *See* FINRA Rule 2111.

[74] The surveillance program includes real-time patterns for price and volume movements and post-trade surveillance patterns (*e.g.,* spoofing, marking the close, pinging, phishing).

[75] *See* Cboe Rule 4.16. *See also* NYSE American related to ByRDs at Section 17 of NYSE American's Rules.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 45 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period up to 90 days (i) as the Commission may designate if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission will:

A. by order approve or disapprove such proposed rule change, or

B. institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov.* Please include file number SR–MRX–2026–05 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–MRX–2026–05. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR–MRX–2026–05 and should be submitted on or before April 6, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[76]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05019 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104964; File No. SR–MRX–2026–09]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq MRX, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Exchange's Rules at Options 7, Section 3—Fees and Rebates for Regular Orders and All Crossing Orders

March 11, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the ''Act''),[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] notice is hereby given that on March 3, 2026, Nasdaq MRX, LLC (''MRX'' or ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''SEC'' or ''Commission'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the Exchange's Rules at Options 7, Section 3—Fees and Rebates for Regular Orders and All Crossing Orders. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to discontinue the Tier 4 Priority Customer Maker Rebate for Non-Penny Symbols.[3]

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at *https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/mrx/rulefilings,* and at the principal office of the Exchange.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The Exchange proposes to amend the Exchange's Pricing Schedule at Options 7, Section 3—Fees and Rebates for Regular Orders and All Crossing Orders, Table 1, Non-Penny Symbols.

Currently, as set forth in Table 1 of Options 7, Section 3, the Exchange offers different categories of market participants 4 tiers of Maker Fees/Rebates and 4 tiers of Taker Fees/Rebates in Penny Symbols,[4] and 4 tiers of Maker Fees/Rebates and 4 tiers of Taker Fees/Rebates in Non-Penny Symbols.[5] Those 4 tiers are based on the Qualifying Tier Thresholds in Table 3 of Options 7, Section 3.[6]

With respect to Market Maker Fees/Rebates in Non-Penny Symbols in Table 1, the Exchange currently assesses Market Makers,[7] Non-Nasdaq MRX Market Makers,[8] Firm Proprietary/

[76] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] The Exchange initially filed this proposal on February 27, 2026, with a designated operative date of March 2, 2026 (SR–MRX–2026–04). On March 3, 2026, the Exchange withdrew SR–MRX–2026–04 and submitted this filing.

[4] ''Penny Symbols'' are options overlying all symbols listed on Nasdaq MRX that are in the Penny Interval Program. *See* Options 7, Section 1(c).

[5] ''Non-Penny Symbols'' are options overlying all symbols excluding Penny Symbols. *See* Options 7, Section 1(c).

[6] The tiered volume requirements are based on Total Customer ADV. Total Customer ADV is Priority Customer Total Consolidated Volume divided by Customer Total Consolidated Volume, including volume executed by Affiliated Members or Affiliated Entities. Priority Customer Total Consolidated Volume is a Member's total Priority Customer volume executed on MRX in that month, including volume executed by Affiliated Members or Affiliated Entities. All eligible volume from Affiliated Members or an Affiliated Entity is aggregated in determining applicable tiers. The highest tier threshold attained applies retroactively in a given month to all eligible traded contracts and applies to all eligible market participants. *See* Options 7, Section 3, Table 3.

[7] The term ''Market Makers'' refers to ''Competitive Market Makers'' and ''Primary Market Makers'' collectively. *See* Options 1, Section 1(a)(22).

[8] A ''Non-Nasdaq MRX Market Maker'' is a market maker as defined in Section 3(a)(38) of the

Continued

Broker-Dealers,[9] and Professional Customers [10] in Tiers 1–4 Maker Fees of $1.25 per contract. For Priority Customers,[11] Tiers 1–3 are neither assessed Maker Fees nor paid Maker Rebates, while those in Tier 4 are paid a Maker Rebate of $1.00 per contract.[12] Therefore, the portion of Table 1 that concerns Maker Fees/Rebates in Non-Penny Symbols is currently as follows:

NON-PENNY SYMBOLS

Market participant	Maker fee tier 1	Maker fee tier 2	Maker fee tier 3	Maker fee/rebate tier 4
Market Maker	$1.25	$1.25	$1.25	$1.25
Non-Nasdaq MRX Market Maker	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Professional Customer	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Priority Customer	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1.00)

The Exchange proposes to discontinue the Maker Rebate for Priority Customers in Tier 4. Therefore, this same portion of Table 1 will be as follows:

NON-PENNY SYMBOLS

Market participant	Maker fee tier 1	Maker fee tier 2	Maker fee tier 3	Maker fee tier 4
Market Maker	$1.25	$1.25	$1.25	$1.25
Non-Nasdaq MRX Market Maker	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealer	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Professional Customer	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
Priority Customer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Put another way, Priority Customers in Tier 4 will be treated the same as Priority Customers in Tiers 1–3, in that they will be neither assessed a per-contract Maker Fee, nor paid a per-contract Maker Rebate, for their transactions in Non-Penny Symbols.

The Exchange believes that these changes to its Pricing Schedule will help drive additional order flow to the Exchange, which will benefit all market participants by providing them the opportunity to interact with such increased order flow.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,[13] in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,[14] in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system ''has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.'' [15]

Likewise, in *NetCoalition* v. *Securities and Exchange Commission* [16] (''NetCoalition'') the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission's use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.[17] As the court emphasized, the Commission ''intended in Regulation NMS that 'market forces, rather than regulatory requirements' play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost.'' [18]

Further, ''[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' . . . As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution'; [and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker

Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, registered in the same options class on another options exchange. *See* Options 7, Section 1(c).

[9] A ''Firm Proprietary'' order is an order submitted by a Member for its own proprietary account. A ''Broker-Dealer'' order is an order submitted by a Member for a broker-dealer account that is not its own proprietary account. *See id.*

[10] A ''Professional Customer'' is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer and is not a Priority Customer. *See id.*

[11] A ''Priority Customer'' is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Nasdaq MRX Options 1, Section 1(a)(37). Unless otherwise noted, when used in the Pricing Schedule, the term ''Priority Customer'' includes ''Retail.'' *See* Options 7, Section 1(c). A ''Retail'' order is a Priority Customer order that originates from a natural person, provided that no change is made to the terms of the order with respect to price or side of market and the order does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology. *See id.*

[12] Priority Customer orders will not receive any Maker Rebates in Penny Symbols and Non-Penny Symbols or Taker Rebates in Penny and Non-Penny Symbols for trades executed against another Priority Customer order. Instead, the Priority Customer order will be assessed $0.00 per contract. *See* Options 7, Section 3, Table 1, Note 7.

[13] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

[14] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

[15] Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

[16] *NetCoalition* v. *SEC,* 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

[17] *See NetCoalition,* at 534–535.

[18] *Id.* at 537.

dealers'. . . .'' [19] Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

The proposed discontinuation of the Tier 4 Maker Rebate for Priority Customers in Non-Penny Symbols is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange will uniformly apply the new schedule of fees and rebates to any member or member organization that meets the criteria for these fees and rebates. Additionally, Priority Customers in Non-Penny Symbols in Tier 4 will now be treated the same as those in Tiers 1–3, in that they will neither be charged a Maker Fee, nor paid a Maker Rebate, for these transactions.

The amended schedule of rebates is also reasonable, as well as equitable and not unfairly discriminatory, because it is intended to continue to attract order flow to the Exchange. While Priority Customers in Non-Penny Symbols in Tier 4 would no longer be paid a Maker Rebate, they also would not be charged a Maker Fee, which should continue to make the Exchange an attractive venue for Priority Customer order flow. Priority Customer order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange to the benefit of all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which in turn attracts other market participants who may interact with this order flow.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Inter-Market Competition

The proposal does not impose an undue burden on inter-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes its proposal remains competitive with other options markets and will offer market participants with another choice of where to transact options. The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

Intra-Market Competition

The Exchange's proposed discontinuation of the Priority Customer Tier 4 Maker Rebate for transactions in Non-Penny Symbols does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, because the Exchange will uniformly apply the new schedule of fees and rebates to any member or member organization that meets the criteria for these fees and rebates. Additionally, all Priority Customers who transact in Non-Penny Symbols will be treated the same, regardless of whether they fall under Tiers 1–4, because none of them will be assessed a Maker Fee, nor paid a Maker Rebate, for these transactions.

The amended schedule of rebates does not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, because it is intended to continue to attract order flow to the Exchange. While Priority Customers in Non-Penny Symbols in Tier 4 would no longer be paid a Maker Rebate, they also would not be charged a Maker Fee, which should continue to make the Exchange an attractive venue for Priority Customer order flow. Priority Customer order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange to the benefit of all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which in turn attracts other market participants who may interact with this order flow.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.[20] At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov.* Please include file number SR–MRX–2026–09 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–MRX–2026–09. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR–MRX–2026–09 and should be submitted on or before April 6, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[21]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

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[19] *Id.* at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (Dec. 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782–83 (Dec. 9, 2008) (File No. SR–NYSEArca–2006–21)).

[20] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

[21] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104977; File No. 600–39]

Paxos Securities Settlement Company, LLC; Notice of Filing of an Amendment to Application for Registration as a Clearing Agency Under Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

March 11, 2026.

On February 27, 2026, Paxos Securities Settlement Company, LLC (''PSSC'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''Commission'') an amendment (''Amendment'') to its application on Form CA–1 (''Application'') seeking to register as a clearing agency pursuant to Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (''Exchange Act'') and Rule 17Ab2–1 thereunder.[1] PSSC originally filed its Application on July 14, 2025.[2] The filing of this Amendment serves as PSSC's consent to extend the time for the Commission's review of the Application to 90 days from the filing of the Amendment, or May 28, 2026.[3]

The Commission is publishing this notice (''Notice of Amendment'') to solicit comments on the Amendment.[4] A summary of the Application exhibits modified by the Amendment appears below.

I. Discussion

The Amendment modifies Exhibits C, E, and J of the Application, as described below.

In its amendment to Exhibit C.1,[5] PSSC has provided additional considerations regarding Member Directors and the requirement for fair representation set forth in Section 17A(b)(3)(C) of the Exchange Act, which state that: (i) Member Directors would not select the initial Public Directors or the initial Chairman of the Board of Directors of PSSC; [6] (ii) the conflict of interest requirements prescribed in Commission Rule 17Ad–25 apply to Member Directors the same as other directors; [7] (iii) the role of Member Directors in the nomination of Independent Directors is consistent with the Exchange Act and rules thereunder; [8] and (iv) a Member Director also serving as a PSSC Corporate Officer cannot serve on a Board committee.[9]

In its amendment to Exhibit E.12, PSSC has provided a consolidated set of the PSSC Rules, removing Exhibits E.12 through E.36 which previously set forth Rules 1 through 15 separately. In addition to consolidating the PSSC Rules into one exhibit and making certain technical changes, PSSC has modified or added the following aspects of the PSSC Rules: Rule 2.4B regarding monitoring of credit risk ratings; Rule 2.5D regarding the termination of Counterparty Pairs or Eligible Securities; Rule 5.4B regarding the calculation of the Computed Margin Requirement; and Rule 6.1 regarding the requirement for timely settlement.[10] In addition, PSSC has deleted the definition of ''Required Margin Deposit'' and provisions of its rules related to the ''Potential Adjustment to the Preliminary Computed Margin Requirement'' and to the ''Credit Risk Rating as a Modification Factor,'' as originally set forth in Rules 5.4.1.7B and 5.4.2B respectively.

In modifying aspects of the PSSC Rules as described above, the Amendment modifies the Compliance and Risk Management Committee Charter at Exhibit E.7 to update certain cross references to the corresponding PSSC Rules.[11] In addition, in consolidating the PSSC Rules into one document (*i.e.,* Exhibit E.12), PSSC has revised the numbering for the Schedule of Fees from Exhibit E.37 to Exhibit E.13.[12]

In its amendment to Exhibit J, PSSC has made a number of technical changes, as well as the following changes: (i) under ''Ongoing Monitoring of Participants,'' adding discussion of its Credit Risk Rating and the Credit Risk Rating Matrix; [13] (ii) under ''Counterparty Pairs for Settlement of Settlement Obligations,'' adding discussion regarding actions PSSC may take in response to a Participant's outstanding Fails; [14] (iii) under ''Margin,'' in discussing ''Computed Margin Requirement,'' removing references to the Credit Risk Modification Factor and revising references to Fails Charges and Excessive Fails Penalties; [15] (iv) under ''Margin,'' in discussing the ''Preliminary Computed Margin Requirement,'' deleting discussion of the ''Credit Risk Rating as a Modification Factor;'' (v) under ''Settlement,'' in the context of a Participant's failure to comply with PSSC Rules, adding reference to restrictions on access, disciplinary proceedings, and ceasing to act; [16] and (vi) at the end of Exhibit J, adding a new discussion of the ''Ramp-Up Period,'' during which PSSC explains that it would not commence operations sooner than ten months from the date of any approval of its Application and would limit operations in certain ways for at least the following 12 months after the initial 10-month period.[17] The specific elements of the Ramp Up Period are described further in the Amendment.

II. Request for Comment

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the Application as amended, including whether the Application as amended is consistent with the Exchange Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to clearing agencies (*e.g.,* Exchange Act Rules 17Ad–22, 17Ad–25, 17Ad–26, and Regulation Systems Compliance and Integrity).[18]

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (*https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/how-submit-comment*); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov*. Please include file number 600–39 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

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[1] 15 U.S.C. 78*q*–1; 17 CFR 240.17ab2–1.

[2] Notice of filing of the Application was published for comment in the **Federal Register** on August 6, 2025. Release No. 34–103624 (Aug. 1, 2025), 90 FR 37940 (Aug. 6, 2025). On November 4, 2025, the Commission instituted proceedings pursuant to Section 19(a)(1)(B) of the Exchange Act to determine whether to grant or deny the Application. Release No. 34–104174 (Nov. 4, 2025), 90 FR 51416 (Nov. 17, 2025) (''OIP''). On January 30, 2026, the Commission designated a longer period for Commission action on the OIP. Release No. 34–104757 (Jan. 30, 2026), 91 FR 4974 (Feb. 3, 2026).

[3] 15 U.S.C. 78s(a)(1)(B). *See also* 17 CFR 240.17Ab2–1(d).

[4] Non-confidential aspects of the Application exhibits modified by the Amendment, including any exhibits cited in this Notice of Amendment, are available on the Commission's website together with the previously filed Application at: *https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/other-commission-orders-notices-information/pssc-form-ca-1.*

[5] Capitalized terms not defined in this Notice of Amendment are defined in the Application.

[6] Amendment, Exhibit C.1 at 9–10.

[7] *Id.* at 10.

[8] *Id.* at 10–12.

[9] *Id.* at 12.

[10] *See* Amendment, Exhibit E.12 (''PSSC Rules'').

[11] *See* Amendment, Exhibit E.7.

[12] *See* Amendment, Exhibit E.13.

[13] Amendment, Exhibit J at 7–9.

[14] *Id.* at 12.

[15] *Id.* at 18.

[16] *Id.* at 25.

[17] *Id.* at 37–39.

[18] *See* 17 CFR 240.17ad–22 (''Rule 17Ad–22''), 240.17ad–25 (''Rule 17Ad–25''), and 240.17ad–26 (''Rule 17Ad–26''); 17 CFR 242.1000 through 242.1007 (''Regulation Systems Compliance and Integrity'').

All submissions should refer to file number 600–39. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (*https://www.sec.gov/rules-regulations/commission-orders-notices/other-commission-orders-notices-information*).

Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to File Number 600–39 and should be submitted on or before April 6, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[19]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release No. 34–104965; File No. SR–ISE–2026–10]

Self-Regulatory Organizations; Nasdaq ISE, LLC; Notice of Filing and Immediate Effectiveness of Proposed Rule Change To Amend the Exchange's Rules at Options 7, Section 4—Complex Order Fees and Rebates

March 11, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 19(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the ''Act''),[1] and Rule 19b–4 thereunder,[2] notice is hereby given that on March 3, 2026, Nasdaq ISE, LLC (''ISE'' or ''Exchange'') filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (''SEC'' or ''Commission'') the proposed rule change as described in Items I, II, and III below, which Items have been prepared by the Exchange. The Commission is publishing this notice to solicit comments on the proposed rule change from interested persons.

I. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Terms of Substance of the Proposed Rule Change

The Exchange proposes to amend the Exchange's Rules at Options 7, Section 4—Complex Order Fees and Rebates. Specifically, the Exchange proposes to modify the schedule of Priority Customer complex order rebates.[3]

The text of the proposed rule change is available on the Exchange's website at *https://listingcenter.nasdaq.com/rulebook/ise/rulefilings,* and at the principal office of the Exchange.

II. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

In its filing with the Commission, the Exchange included statements concerning the purpose of and basis for the proposed rule change and discussed any comments it received on the proposed rule change. The text of these statements may be examined at the places specified in Item IV below. The Exchange has prepared summaries, set forth in sections A, B, and C below, of the most significant aspects of such statements.

A. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement of the Purpose of, and Statutory Basis for, the Proposed Rule Change

1. Purpose

The purpose of the proposed rule change is to amend the complex order[4] rebates in the Exchange's Pricing Schedule (Options 7). Specifically, the Exchange proposes to amend its Pricing Schedule at Section 4—Complex Order Fees and Rebates.

Currently, the Exchange offers tiered complex order rebates for Select Symbols[5] and Non-Select Symbols[6] based on the Priority Customer[7] Complex Tier achieved.[8] The schedule of tiered complex order Priority Customer rebates for Select Symbols and Non-Select Symbols is currently as follows:

Priority customer complex tier	Total affiliated member or affiliated entity complex order volume (excluding crossing orders and responses to crossing orders) calculated as a percentage of customer total consolidated volume	Rebate for select symbols	Rebate for non-select symbols
Tier 1	0.000%–0.200%	($0.25)	($0.50)
Tier 2	Above 0.200%–0.400%	(0.30)	(0.60)
Tier 3	Above 0.400%–0.550%	(0.40)	(0.80)
Tier 4	Above 0.550%–0.750%	(0.45)	(0.85)

[19] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(16).

[1] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(1).

[2] 17 CFR 240.19b–4.

[3] The Exchange initially filed this proposal on February 27, 2026, with a designated operative date of March 2, 2026 (SR–ISE–2026–06). On March 3, 2026, the Exchange withdrew SR–ISE–2026–06 and submitted this filing.

[4] A ''Complex Order'' is any order involving the simultaneous purchase and/or sale of two or more different options series in the same underlying security, as provided in Options 3, Section 14, as well as Stock-Option Orders, as that term is defined in Options 3, Section 14(a)(2). *See* Options 7, Section 1(c).

[5] ''Select Symbols'' are options overlying all symbols listed on the Nasdaq ISE that are in the Penny Interval Program. *See* Options 7, Section 1(c)

[6] ''Non-Select Symbols'' are options overlying all symbols excluding Select Symbols. No Priority Customer complex order rebates will be paid for orders in NDX, XND or MNX. *See* Options 7, Section 4, note 4.

[7] The term ''Priority Customer'' is a person or entity that is not a broker/dealer in securities, and does not place more than 390 orders in listed options per day on average during a calendar month for its own beneficial account(s), as defined in Options 1, Section 1(a)(38). Unless otherwise noted, when used in the Pricing Schedule, the term ''Priority Customer'' includes ''Retail''. *See* Options 7, Section 1(c). A ''Retail'' order is a Priority Customer order that originates from a natural person, provided that no change is made to the terms of the order with respect to price or side of market and the order does not originate from a trading algorithm or any other computerized methodology. *See id.*

[8] Priority Customer Complex Tiers are based on Total Affiliated Member or Affiliated Entity Complex Order Volume (Excluding Crossing Orders and Responses to Crossing Orders) Calculated as a Percentage of Customer Total Consolidated Volume. ''Customer Total Consolidated Volume'' means the total national volume cleared at The Options Clearing Corporation in the Customer range in equity and ETF options in that month. *See* Options 7, Section 1(c). All Complex Order volume executed on the Exchange, including volume executed by Affiliated Members, is included in the volume calculation, except for volume executed as Crossing Orders and Responses to Crossing Orders. Affiliated Entities may aggregate their Complex Order volume for purposes of calculating Priority Customer Rebates. An ''Appointed OFP'' would receive the rebate associated with the qualifying volume tier based on aggregated volume. *See* Options 7, Section 4, note 16. As set forth in Options 7, Section 1(c), an Appointed OFP is an Order Flow Provider who has been appointed by a Market Maker for purposes of qualifying as an Affiliated Entity, and an Order Flow Provider is any Member, other than a Market Maker, that submits orders, as agent or principal, to the Exchange.

Priority customer complex tier	Total affiliated member or affiliated entity complex order volume (excluding crossing orders and responses to crossing orders) calculated as a percentage of customer total consolidated volume	Rebate for select symbols	Rebate for non-select symbols
Tier 5	Above 0.750%–1.000%	(0.46)	(0.90)
Tier 6	Above 1.000%–1.350%	(0.48)	(0.95)
Tier 7	Above 1.350%–1.750%	(0.54)	(1.00)
Tier 8	Above 1.750%–2.25%	(0.56)	(1.10)
Tier 9	Above 2.25%–4.500%	(0.58)	(1.12)
Tier 10	Above 4.500%	(0.59)	(1.15)

The above rebates are provided per contract, per leg, if the order trades with Non-Priority Customer [9] orders in the complex order book. This rebate will be reduced by $0.20 per contract in Select Symbols where the largest leg of the Complex Order is under fifty (50) contracts and trades with quotes and orders on the regular order book. No Priority Customer Complex Order rebates will be provided in Select Symbols if any leg of the order that trades with interest on the regular order book is fifty (50) contracts or more. No Priority Customer Complex Order rebates will be provided in Non-Select Symbols if any leg of the order trades with interest on the regular order book, irrespective of order size.

The Exchange now proposes to modify the volume thresholds to qualify for the Tier 5 and Tier 6 rebates as follows: the threshold limits to qualify for the Tier 5 rebate will be above 0.750% to 0.900%, instead of above 0.750% to 1.000%; and the threshold limits to qualify for the Tier 6 rebate will be above 0.900% to 1.350%, instead of above 1.000% to 1.350%. The Exchange also proposes to modify the amount of the Priority Customer complex rebate for Tiers 6, 8, 9, and 10, as follows: the Tier 6 rebate for Select Symbols will be $0.53, instead of $0.48, and for Non-Select Symbols it will be $0.99, instead of $0.95; the Tier 8 rebate for Select Symbols will be $0.57, instead of $0.56, and for Non-Select Symbols it will be $1.11, instead of $1.10; the Tier 9 rebate for Select Symbols will be $0.59, instead of $0.58, and for Non-Select Symbols it will be $1.13, instead of $1.12; and the Tier 10 rebate for Select Symbols will be $0.60, instead of $0.59, and for Non-Select Symbols it will be $1.16, instead of $1.15.

Therefore, the amended Priority Customer complex rebate schedule will be as follows:

Priority customer complex tier	Total affiliated member or affiliated entity complex order volume (excluding crossing orders and responses to crossing orders) calculated as a percentage of customer total consolidated volume	Rebate for select symbols	Rebate for Non-select symbols
Tier 1	0.000%–0.200%	($0.25)	($0.50)
Tier 2	Above 0.200%–0.400%	(0.30)	(0.60)
Tier 3	Above 0.400%–0.550%	(0.40)	(0.80)
Tier 4	Above 0.550%–0.750%	(0.45)	(0.85)
Tier 5	Above 0.750%–0.900%	(0.46)	(0.90)
Tier 6	Above 0.900%–1.350%	(0.53)	(0.99)
Tier 7	Above 1.350%–1.750%	(0.54)	(1.00)
Tier 8	Above 1.750%–2.25%	(0.57)	(1.11)
Tier 9	Above 2.25%–4.500%	(0.59)	(1.13)
Tier 10	Above 4.500%	(0.60)	(1.16)

The Exchange believes that these changes to its Pricing Schedule will help drive additional order flow to the Exchange, which will benefit all market participants by providing them the opportunity to interact with such increased order flow.

2. Statutory Basis

The Exchange believes that its proposal is consistent with Section 6(b) of the Act,[10] in general, and furthers the objectives of Sections 6(b)(4) and 6(b)(5) of the Act,[11] in particular, in that it provides for the equitable allocation of reasonable dues, fees and other charges among members and issuers and other persons using any facility, and is not designed to permit unfair discrimination between customers, issuers, brokers, or dealers.

The Commission and the courts have repeatedly expressed their preference for competition over regulatory intervention in determining prices, products, and services in the securities markets. In Regulation NMS, while adopting a series of steps to improve the current market model, the Commission highlighted the importance of market forces in determining prices and SRO revenues and, also, recognized that current regulation of the market system ''has been remarkably successful in promoting market competition in its broader forms that are most important to investors and listed companies.'' [12]

Likewise, in *NetCoalition* v. *Securities and Exchange Commission* [13] (''NetCoalition'') the D.C. Circuit upheld the Commission's use of a market-based approach in evaluating the fairness of market data fees against a challenge claiming that Congress mandated a cost-based approach.[14] As the court emphasized, the Commission ''intended in Regulation NMS that 'market forces, rather than regulatory requirements' play a role in determining the market data . . . to be made available to investors and at what cost.'' [15]

Further, ''[n]o one disputes that competition for order flow is 'fierce.' . . . As the SEC explained, '[i]n the U.S. national market system, buyers and sellers of securities, and the broker-dealers that act as their order-routing agents, have a wide range of choices of where to route orders for execution';

[9] ''Non-Priority Customers'' include Market Makers, Non-Nasdaq ISE Market Makers, Firm Proprietary/Broker-Dealers, and Professional Customers. *See* Options 7, Section 1(c).

[10] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

[11] 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(4) and (5).

[12] Securities Exchange Act Release No. 51808 (June 9, 2005), 70 FR 37496, 37499 (June 29, 2005).

[13] *NetCoalition* v. *SEC,* 615 F.3d 525 (D.C. Cir. 2010).

[14] *See NetCoalition,* at 534–535.

[15] *Id.* at 537.

[and] 'no exchange can afford to take its market share percentages for granted' because 'no exchange possesses a monopoly, regulatory or otherwise, in the execution of order flow from broker dealers'. . . .'' [16] Although the court and the SEC were discussing the cash equities markets, the Exchange believes that these views apply with equal force to the options markets.

The proposed amended schedule of Priority Customer complex rebates is equitable and not unfairly discriminatory because the Exchange would uniformly apply the new rebates to any member or member organization that meets the criteria for these rebates. The proposed amended schedule of Priority Customer complex rebates is also reasonable, as well as equitable and not unfairly discriminatory, because it is intended to attract more Priority Customer order flow to the Exchange. Priority Customer order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange to the benefit of all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which in turn attracts other market participants who may interact with this order flow.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any burden on competition not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

Inter-Market Competition

The proposal does not impose an undue burden on inter-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. The Exchange believes its proposal remains competitive with other options markets and will offer market participants with another choice of where to transact options. The Exchange notes that it operates in a highly competitive market in which market participants can readily favor competing venues if they deem fee levels at a particular venue to be excessive, or rebate opportunities available at other venues to be more favorable. In such an environment, the Exchange must continually adjust its fees to remain competitive with other exchanges. Because competitors are free to modify their own fees in response, and because market participants may readily adjust their order routing practices, the Exchange believes that the degree to which fee changes in this market may impose any burden on competition is extremely limited.

Intra-Market Competition

The Exchange's proposed amendments to the schedule of Priority Customer complex rebates will not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, because the Exchange will uniformly apply the new schedule of complex rebates to all Priority Customers. The proposed amended schedule of Priority Customer complex rebates will also not impose an undue burden on intra-market competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act, because it is intended to attract more Priority Customer order flow to the Exchange. Priority Customer order flow enhances liquidity on the Exchange to the benefit of all market participants by providing more trading opportunities, which in turn attracts other market participants who may interact with this order flow.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were either solicited or received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

The foregoing rule change has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act.[17] At any time within 60 days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission summarily may temporarily suspend such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is: (i) necessary or appropriate in the public interest; (ii) for the protection of investors; or (iii) otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act. If the Commission takes such action, the Commission shall institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule should be approved or disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Comments

- Use the Commission's internet comment form (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*); or
- Send an email to *rule-comments@sec.gov.* Please include file number SR–ISE–2026–10 on the subject line.

Paper Comments

- Send paper comments in triplicate to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090.

All submissions should refer to file number SR–ISE–2026–10. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help the Commission process and review your comments more efficiently, please use only one method. The Commission will post all comments on the Commission's internet website (*https://www.sec.gov/rules/sro.shtml*). Copies of the filing will be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. Do not include personal identifiable information in submissions; you should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly. We may redact in part or withhold entirely from publication submitted material that is obscene or subject to copyright protection. All submissions should refer to file number SR–ISE–2026–10 and should be submitted on or before April 6, 2026.

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.[18]

Vanessa A. Countryman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–05015 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 12968]

Specially Designated Global Terrorist Designation of Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood

Acting under the authority of and in accordance with section 1(a)(ii)(A) of Executive Order 13224, as amended (''E.O. 13224'' or ''Order''), I hereby determine that the person known as Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood (also known as Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan; Sudanese Islamic Movement; al-Bara Bin Malik Brigade; al-Bara' ibn Malik Brigade; al-Baraa bin Malik Battalion) is a foreign person who has committed or has attempted to commit, poses a significant risk of committing, or has participated in training to commit

[16] *Id.* at 539 (quoting Securities Exchange Act Release No. 59039 (Dec. 2, 2008), 73 FR 74770, 74782–83 (Dec. 9, 2008) (File No. SR–NYSEArca–2006–21)).

[17] 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

[18] 17 CFR 200.30–3(a)(12).

acts of terrorism that threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States.

Consistent with the determination in section 10 of E.O. 13224 that prior notice to persons determined to be subject to the Order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States would render ineffectual the blocking and other measures authorized in the Order because of the ability to transfer funds instantaneously, I determine that no prior notice needs to be provided to any person subject to this determination who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, because to do so would render ineffectual the measures authorized in the Order.

This determination shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 8, 2026.

Marco Rubio,

Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–05084 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–AD–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Delegation of Authority No. 617]

Delegation of Authority Under Executive Order 14163, Presidential Proclamation 10998 ''Restricting and Limiting the Entry of Foreign Nationals To Protect the United States,'' and Related INA 212(f) Presidential Proclamations

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of State by the laws of the United States, including Section 1 of the Department of State Basic Authorities Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2651a), Executive Order 14163 of January 20, 2025 (E.O. 14163) and Presidential Proclamation of December 16, 2025 (''PP 10998''), Presidential Proclamation of June 4, 2025 (''PP 10949'') as continued and supplemented by PP 10998, and any subsequent Presidential Proclamations that continue or supplement PP 10998 or PP 10949, I hereby delegate to the Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration, to the extent authorized by law, the authority under section 3(c) of E.O. 14163, sections 6(d) through 6(f) of PP 10998, sections 4(c) and 4(d) of PP 10949 as continued and supplemented by PP 10998, and relevant authority in subsequent Proclamations to determine that travel by a foreign national and admittance into the United Sates as a refugee would serve a United States national interest.

The Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, and the Under Secretary for Foreign Assistance, Humanitarian Affairs, and Religious Freedom may exercise any function or authority delegated by this delegation. The authorities delegated herein may be redelegated to an Officer of the United States, to the extent authorized by law.

This Delegation of Authority does not supersede or otherwise affect any other delegation of authority currently in effect and will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 6, 2026.

Marco Rubio,

Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–05085 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–33–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 12967]

Foreign Terrorist Organization Designation of Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood

Based upon a review of the Administrative Record assembled in this matter, and in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, I have concluded that there is a sufficient factual basis to find that the relevant circumstances described in section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (hereinafter ''INA'') (8 U.S.C. 1189), exist with respect to: Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood (also known as Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan; Sudanese Islamic Movement; al-Bara Bin Malik Brigade; al-Bara' ibn Malik Brigade; al-Baraa bin Malik Battalion).

Therefore, I hereby designate the aforementioned organization and its respective aliases as a Foreign Terrorist Organization pursuant to section 219 of the INA.

This determination shall be published in the **Federal Register**. The designation goes into effect upon publication.

Dated: March 8, 2026.

Marco Rubio,

Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–05072 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–AD–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 12966]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Request for Entry Into Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are requesting comments on this collection from all interested individuals and organizations. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to May 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Web:* Persons with access to the internet may comment on this notice by going to *www.Regulations.gov.* You can search for the document by entering ''Docket Number: DOS–2026–0331'' in the Search field. Then click the ''Comment Now'' button and complete the comment form.
- *Email: OCSRegs@state.gov.*
- *Regular Mail:* Send written comments to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/MSU, SA–17, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20522–1710.

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and the OMB control number in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument and supporting documents, to *OCSRegs@state.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* Request for Entry into Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program.
- *OMB Control Number:* 1405–0169.
- *Type of Request:* Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.
- *Originating Office:* Bureau of Consular Affairs, Overseas Citizens Services (CA/OCS).
- *Form Number:* DS–3077.
- *Respondents:* Concerned parents or their agents, institutions, or courts.
- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 4,000.
- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 4,000.

• *Average Time per Response:* 30 minutes per response.

• *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 2,000 hours.

• *Frequency:* On occasion.

• *Obligation to Respond:* Voluntary.

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

• Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.

• Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

• Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.

• Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

Abstract of Proposed Collection

The information requested will be used to support entry of the name of a minor (an unmarried, unemancipated person under 18 years of age) into the Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP). CPIAP provides a mechanism for parents or other persons with legal custody of a minor to obtain information regarding whether the Department has received a passport application for the minor. This program was developed as a means to prevent international parental child abduction and to help prevent other travel of a minor without the consent of a parent or legal guardian. If a minor's name and other identifying information has been entered into the CPIAP, when the Department receives an application for a new, replacement, or renewed passport for the minor, the application may be placed on hold for up to 90 days and the Office of Children's Issues may attempt to notify the requestor of receipt of the application. Form DS–3077 will be primarily submitted by a parent or legal guardian of a minor. This collection is authorized by 22 CFR 51.28, which is the regulation that implements the statutory two-parent consent requirement and prescribes the bases for an exception to the requirement.

Methodology

The completed Form DS–3077 can be filled out online and printed or completed by hand. The form must be manually signed and submitted to the Office of Children's Issues by email or mail with supporting documentation. Retyping the signer's name using a digital device is as acceptable as signing with pen and paper.

Elizabeth M. Gracon,

Managing Director, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–05028 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2020–0084; Notice 3]

Daimler Coaches North America, LLC, Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Denial of petition.

SUMMARY: Daimler Coaches North America, LLC (DCNA), a subsidiary of Daimler AG, has determined that certain model year (MY) 2012–2019 Setra S407 and MY 2009–2020 Setra S417 buses do not fully comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 101, *Controls and Displays.* DCNA filed a noncompliance report dated July 15, 2020 and amended its report on July 16, 2020 and March 24, 2021. DCNA petitioned NHTSA (the ''Agency'') on August 4, 2020 for a decision that the subject noncompliances are inconsequential as they relate to motor vehicle safety. On October 1, 2020 DCNA submitted an amended petition to the Agency. Additionally, DCNA submitted supplemental information to NHTSA on February 5, 2021, March 5, 2021, and March 25, 2021. This notice announces the denial of DCNA's petition.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kamna Ralhan, General Engineer, NHTSA, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, (202) 366–6443.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Overview

DCNA has determined that certain MY 2012–2019 Setra S407 and MY 2009–2020 Setra S417 buses do not fully comply with the requirements of paragraphs S.5.3.1, S5.3.2, and Table 1 of FMVSS No. 101, *Controls and Displays* (49 CFR 571.101). DCNA filed a noncompliance report dated July 15, 2020 and amended its report on July 16, 2020, and March 24, 2021, pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, *Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.* DCNA subsequently petitioned NHTSA on August 4, 2020, for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301 on the basis that these noncompliances are inconsequential as they relate to motor vehicle safety, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h) and 49 CFR part 556, *Exemption for Inconsequential Defect or Noncompliance.* On October 1, 2020,[1] DCNA submitted an amended petition to the Agency. Additionally, DCNA submitted supplemental information to NHTSA on February 5, 2021, March 5, 2021, and March 25, 2021.

A notice of receipt of DCNA's petition was published with a 30-day public comment period, on March 26, 2024, in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 21168). No comments were received. To view the petition and all supporting documents, log onto the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) website at *https://www.regulations.gov/* and follow the online search instructions to locate docket number ''NHTSA–2020–0084.''

I. Buses Involved

Approximately 538 MY 2012–2019 Setra S407 and MY 2009–2020 Setra S417 motorcoach buses manufactured between May 19, 2009, and January 30, 2019, were reported by the manufacturer.

III. Noncompliance

DCNA stated that the subject buses are noncompliant because the identifiers for the windshield defogging/defrosting control, the hazard warning signal control, and the HVAC control do not meet illumination requirements in paragraphs S5.3.1, S5.3.2, and Table 1 of FMVSS No. 101. Specifically, the brightness of the windshield defogging/defrosting and HVAC control identifiers cannot be adjusted, and the hazard warning signal control identifier does not illuminate.

IV. Rule Requirements

Paragraphs S5.3.1 and S5.3.2 of FMVSS No. 101 include the requirements relevant to this petition. The standard requires that drivers must have the ability to control the timing of illuminating indicators, the brightness

[1] DCNA's amended petition is dated August 4, 2020, but was submitted to NHTSA on October 1, 2020.

of illuminating indicators, the identification of indicators, and the identification of controls listed in Table 1 to make those indicators visible to drivers under daylight and nighttime driving conditions. Additionally, drivers must have the ability to adjust the visibility to at least two levels of brightness.

V. Summary of DCNA's Petition

The following views and arguments presented in this section, ''V. Summary of DCNA's Petition,'' are the views and arguments provided by DCNA. They do not reflect the views of the Agency. DCNA describes the subject noncompliances and contends that the noncompliances are inconsequential as they relate to motor vehicle safety.

In support of its petition, which is available in full in the docket, DCNA explains its understanding of FMVSS No. 101 and states that the subject noncompliances do not increase risk to motor vehicle safety. DCNA states that FMVSS No. 101 ''is premised on ensuring the various controls, telltales, and indicators can easily be recognized in order to facilitate the driver's selection under day and nighttime conditions, to prevent the mistaken selection of controls and to reduce potential safety hazards when the driver's attention is diverted from the driving task.'' DCNA further explains that FMVSS No. 101 sets requirements for the location (S5.1), identification (S5.2), and illumination (S5.3) of various controls and displays, and Table 1 of the standard provides the illumination and color requirements for those controls, telltales, and indicators. Specifically, DCNA explains that S5.3.1(b) requires that the controls listed in Table 1 of FMVSS No. 101, including those for the hazard and windshield defrost/defog control, are required to be illuminated when the headlamps are activated, and the brightness of the control must be adjustable to at least two levels.

DCNA states that ''the lack of illumination on the hazard warning lamp symbol included on the control and inability to adjust the brightness of the defrost/defog control'' does not present an increased risk to motor vehicle safety. DCNA states that the affected controls are fully operable. DCNA describes the operation and design of the hazard warning lamp control for the subject buses and provides its assessment of the risk to motor vehicle safety. DCNA explains that the ''hazard warning lamp is controlled by a large red plastic toggle switch that is 19 mm across by 40 mm high'' and to activate the control, the driver would press the bottom half of the switch downward with one finger until there is a clicking noise. DCNA states that the operation of the hazard warning lamp ''is confirmed because the hazard lamp itself will flash on and off, and both the right and left turn signal indicators in the instrument cluster will flash on and off and in unison with the hazard warning lamps on the exterior of the vehicle.'' Therefore, DCNA asserts that a driver of the subject buses would still be able to confirm that the hazard warning lamp is operating as intended.

DCNA further states that a driver of the affected buses would be able to identify and locate the hazard warning lamp switch even under nighttime conditions because the switch is located to the immediate right of the driver, is at eye level, and is the only switch in that area that is red, rather than black or grey. Thus, DCNA states that the hazard warning lamp switch is conspicuous and ''readily apparent under all operating conditions.''

DCNA describes the operation and design of the windshield defrost/defog control for the subject buses, and states that the windshield defrost/defog symbol is located adjacent to the turn-style control knob. DCNA also states that the defrost/defog control activates the windshield defrost/defog function and that both the symbol and control knob are automatically illuminated when the subject buses' headlamps are activated but cannot be dimmed, which is required by S5.3.2.1 of FMVSS No. 101. DCNA asserts that each of the functions surrounding the windshield defrost/defog symbol, many of which are not regulated by FMVSS No. 101's Table 1, are illuminated. DCNA explains that there is a master switch that allows the driver to adjust the brightness of the area surrounding the controls, and dimming can be controlled ''within the meter assembly menu for the dashboard lights and is adjustable to more than two different levels of brightness.'' Furthermore, DCNA states that the controls at issue are located within a group of controls that is ''responsible for the heating, cooling, and temperature operations of the driver's compartment of the vehicle.'' Therefore, DCNA contends that a driver of the subject buses would be familiar with the location of the defrost/defog control because it is located within a cluster of controls that operate similar functions. Thus, DCNA states that ''there is little to no risk that the driver's vision would otherwise be impaired if the display was too bright or too dim.''

DCNA notes that drivers of the subject buses would be professionally trained and would therefore be likely to have experience operating the bus and be ''knowledgeable about the location and function of all of the controls and devices within the vehicle.'' DCNA states that the area forward of the driver's seat in the subject buses' interior cabin is ''sufficiently lit by roadway lighting, other illuminated controls, telltales, and the light emitted from the display of the instrument cluster.'' According to DCNA, when operating the subject buses with the headlamps turned on, the dashboard lamps will also be illuminated which will illuminate the hazard warning lamp as well as other controls and indicators.

DCNA states that NHTSA has granted prior petitions for inconsequential noncompliance ''where certain controls, telltales, and indicators listed in Table 1 were not visible to the driver under all day and night driving conditions.'' Specifically, DCNA refers to a petition in which an electrical condition ''could cause the headlamp upper beam indicator telltale to extinguish for various periods of time and under certain conditions.'' In this case, DCNA states that NHTSA determined that the upper beam telltale would only need to be illuminated during nighttime driving conditions, as only a comparatively small portion of driving occurs at night, which is the time of headlamp activation.[2]

DCNA reiterates that the subject buses are mostly used commercially, and therefore, the drivers are trained and ''should be familiar with the layout, placement, and operation of the hazard warning lamp and defog/defrost controls.'' DCNA states that NHTSA has also granted prior petitions concerning the potential safety consequences of a noncompliance with FMVSS No. 101 because it is expected that the driver will monitor the condition of the vehicle closely ''to ensure the systems are properly operating.'' Additionally, DCNA states that there are several petitions where NHTSA found that the potential risk to motor vehicle safety was inconsequential when the vehicle is operated by a trained driver because professional drivers understand the telltales and other vehicle warnings.[3]

[2] *See* General Motors Corp.; Grant of Petition for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 56 FR 33323 (July 19, 1991).

[3] *See* Mack Trucks, Inc., and Volvo Trucks North America, Grant of Petitions for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 84 FR 67766 (December 11, 2019); Autocar Industries, LLC, and Hino Motors Sales U.S.A., Inc., Grant of Petitions for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 84 FR 11162 (March 25, 2019); Daimler Trucks North America, LLC, Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 82 FR 33551 (July 20, 2017).

DCNA concludes by stating that the subject noncompliances are inconsequential as they relate to motor vehicle safety, and that its petition to be exempted from providing notification of the noncompliances, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30118, and a remedy for the noncompliances, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30120, should be granted.

VI. Summary of DCNA's Supplemental Submissions

In support of its petition, DCNA submitted supplemental information to NHTSA on February 5, 2021, March 5, 2021, and March 25, 2021.

In its February 5, 2021, submission, DCNA clarifies that the reference to dimming through the meter assembly menu means that there is a master switch that operates the dimming function within the instrument cluster that is directly in front of the driver.

On March 5, 2021, DCNA provided photos [4] depicting the noncompliance under various conditions. In the same supplemental submission, DCNA notes that, under further testing, the illumination of the HVAC controls did not cause any driver glare and did not appear brighter than any of the adjacent markings of the HVAC controls, and indicators were still sufficiently recognizable.

In its March 25, 2021, submission, DCNA notes that in addition to the issues originally covered in its petition, the controls for the vehicle's HVAC system that are covered by FMVSS No. 101, Table 1, can be illuminated but are not dimmable as required by S5.3.2. Specifically, the heating and air-conditioning system and heating and air-conditioning fan are affected. DCNA further states that despite the condition that these two controls cannot be dimmed on the vehicles at issue, this does not create an increased safety risk. DCNA notes that these two controls are located in the same area as all the other HVAC controls and their location would be readily known to the experienced professional drivers that operate the buses at issue here. Additionally, DCNA asserts that the master switch used for adjusting the brightness of the area surrounding the driver is fully operable and adjustable to more than two different levels of brightness. Consequently, DCNA states that there is little to no risk of illumination of controls for the heating and air-conditioning system causing the heating and air-conditioning fan to be overly bright and impair the vision of the driver.

[4] These photos are available in the docket.

VII. NHTSA's Analysis

A. General Principles

The burden of establishing the inconsequentiality of a failure to comply with a *performance requirement* in an FMVSS is substantial and difficult to meet. Accordingly, the Agency has not found many such noncompliances inconsequential.[5]

In determining the inconsequentiality of a noncompliance, NHTSA focuses on the safety risk to individuals who experience the type of event against which a recall would otherwise protect.[6] In general, NHTSA does not consider the absence of complaints or injuries to show that the issue is inconsequential to safety. The absence of complaints does not mean vehicle occupants have not experienced a safety issue, nor does it mean that there will not be safety issues in the future.[7] Further, because each inconsequential noncompliance petition must be evaluated on its own facts and determinations are highly fact-dependent, NHTSA does not consider prior determinations as binding precedent. Petitioners are reminded that they have the burden of persuading NHTSA that the noncompliance is inconsequential to safety.

B. Response to the Petition

1. Increased Risk Due to Noncompliance

DCNA's interpretation of FMVSS No. 101 hinges upon the position that the noncompliance does not elevate the risk to motor vehicle safety compared to a vehicle that is fully compliant with the safety standard. FMVSS No. 101's sections S5.3.2.1 and S5.3.2.2(a) clearly mandate that the brightness of the subject controls, telltales, and indicators must be visible and adjustable under both day and nighttime conditions. DCNA's assessment undervalues that these regulations were promulgated to reduce driver distraction and ensure safety, particularly during challenging lighting conditions.

2. Operation and Design of Hazard Warning Lamp Control

In addressing the operation and design of the hazard warning lamp control, it is essential to consider not only the visibility and operability emphasized by DCNA but also the fundamental safety requirements in FMVSS No. 101. The absence of illumination of the identifier for the hazard warning lamp control is a significant concern, as it contravenes the requirements set forth in FMVSS 101, paragraph S5.3.2.1. This provision mandates the illumination of certain control identifiers, including the hazard warning symbol to ensure their visibility under various lighting conditions, thereby facilitating their safe operation by the vehicle operator.

Moreover, while the implementation of a red toggle switch and its strategic placement may assist in locating the control, this design choice does not address the issue of illumination adequacy, which is required under FMVSS No. 101. Specifically, S5.3.2.2(a) in FMVSS 101 requires that the brightness of these controls must be adjustable to accommodate different lighting environments, which is a feature that is absent in DCNA's subject vehicles. This limitation could hinder the rapid identification of the control under less-than-optimal lighting conditions, which would increase the risk of a vehicle crash. In safety engineering, there is a concept called ''Gaze Fixation.'' When a driver is in an emergency, they should not have to take their eyes off the road for more than a fraction of a second. By failing to illuminate the hazard symbol, the manufacturer is forcing the driver to blindly search for the control or stare into the dark to find it. This ''search time'' is exactly when crashes can occur. If a driver is looking for a switch, they are not focusing on the road.

Compliance with FMVSS 101 is not about convenience but more so about predictable behavior. When a vehicle does not follow these illumination requirements, it breaks the ''muscle memory'' of the driver. In a high-stress situation—like a tire blowout or a sudden obstacle—the human brain reverts to basic instincts. The driver experiences a cognitive delay—they must think about where the switch is

[5] *Cf. Gen. Motors Corporation; Ruling on Petition for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance,* 69 FR 19897, 19899 (Apr. 14, 2004) (citing prior cases where noncompliance was expected to be imperceptible, or nearly so, to vehicle occupants or approaching drivers).

[6] *See Gen. Motors, LLC; Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance,* 78 FR 35355 (June 12, 2013) (finding noncompliance had no effect on occupant safety because it had no effect on the proper operation of the occupant classification system and the correct deployment of an air bag); *Osram Sylvania Prods. Inc.; Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance,* 78 FR 46000 (July 30, 2013) (finding occupant using noncompliant light source would not be exposed to significantly greater risk than occupant using similar compliant light source).

[7] *See Morgan 3 Wheeler Limited; Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance,* 81 FR 21663, 21666 (Apr. 12, 2016); *see also United States* v. *Gen. Motors Corp.,* 565 F.2d 754, 759 (D.C. Cir. 1977) (finding defect poses an unreasonable risk when it ''results in hazards as potentially dangerous as sudden engine fire, and where there is no dispute that at least some such hazards, in this case fires, can definitely be expected to occur in the future'').

instead of immediately seeing and pressing it. That brief two-second delay at highway speeds can mean traveling more than 150 feet without activating the warning lights, which can be the difference between the vehicle behind stopping safely and causing a multi-vehicle crash. The manufacturer's claim that streetlights or moonlight will make the red switch visible is both legally and practically flawed, since safety standards are meant to account for worst-case conditions, such as driving on a pitch-black rural road where no ambient light is available.

Additionally, the requirement for the illumination of controls and their identifications, as stipulated in FMVSS 101, paragraph S5.3 Illumination, further underscores the necessity of this feature. Specifically, S5.3.1(a) outlines the timing of illumination, stating that the identification of controls must be illuminated whenever the headlamps are activated. This requirement ensures that controls are easily identifiable and operable in conditions where headlamp use is necessary, which directly impacts the vehicle's operational safety. The reliance on ambient lighting and audible clicks, while useful, does not fulfill the need for dedicated illumination of controls, as these incidental sources do not compensate for the visibility and recognition afforded by properly designed illumination.

By neglecting to provide specific illumination for the hazard warning lamp control, the design fails to meet a fundamental safety requirement set by FMVSS No. 101. This failure violates a specific provision for the illumination of controls—that all controls are clearly visible and readily operable under various conditions—and, consequently, this noncompliance increases the risk of a vehicle crash.

3. Operation and Design of Windshield Defrost/Defog Control

DCNA's reference to the non-adjustable brightness of the windshield defrost/defog indicator still highlights a direct contravention of FMVSS No. 101, S5.3.2.2(a). Even if surrounding functions are illuminated and the control is within a group of related controls, the inability to adjust its brightness could distract the driver, particularly during nighttime driving if the display is excessively bright or too dim, countering FMVSS No. 101's goal of minimizing driver distractions. Windshield defrosting and defogging are not just about driver comfort; they are critical ''vision-restoration'' tools that can determine whether a driver sees the road or drives blind. When a windshield ''flash fogs'' due to sudden temperature changes, visibility can drop from 100% to near zero in seconds, requiring immediate action to prevent a crash. The indicator light is the driver's only confirmation that this life-saving system is active, but by making its brightness non-adjustable, the manufacturer creates a dangerous trade-off: a light that is too bright causes disability glare (blinding the driver at night), while one that is too dim forces the driver to stare away from the road to confirm the system's status.

4. Professional Training of Drivers

DCNA's emphasis on the professional training of drivers does not negate the safety purpose of the requirements of FMVSS No. 101. The standard regulates vehicle safety features, ensuring a consistent safety baseline for all drivers, irrespective of their training or experience. Even professionally trained drivers can be affected by poor design or inadequate illumination, which could lead to momentary distractions or mistakes. Previous rulings on similar matters, such as those involving Mack Trucks, Inc. and Volvo Trucks North America, were contingent on the specifics of those cases and, as noted elsewhere, are not binding precedent.

5. Corrective Measures and Lack of Reported Incidents

The Agency acknowledges DCNA's corrective measures and the absence of reported incidents. However, a lack of incidents to date does not establish the insignificance of the noncompliance concerning FMVSS No. 101's safety objectives. As noted above, the absence of complaints does not mean vehicle occupants have not experienced a safety issue, nor does it mean that there will not be safety issues in the future.[8] The proactive nature of FMVSS No. 101 is to anticipate and address potential risks before they manifest into real-world issues.

6. Comparison to Previous Granted Petition

Contrary to the previously granted petition cited by DCNA, in which a telltale could sporadically extinguish, DCNA's subject petition involves a continual lack of hazard lamp illumination and adjustable brightness for the windshield defrost/defog control. DCNA's noncompliance is meaningfully different than the granted petition that DCNA cited, given the continual lack of the required functionality in DCNA's case.

C. Response to DCNA's Supplemental Information

1. Non-Dimmable HVAC Controls

The lack of dimmable HVAC controls in DCNA's subject vehicle could potentially cause glare or be distracting, especially during nighttime driving. Thus, NHTSA is not persuaded this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

2. Reliance on Professional Drivers' Familiarity

DCNA's reliance on the experience of professional drivers to mitigate potential safety risks is not persuasive. FMVSS No. 101 is designed to ensure safety and ease of use for all drivers, regardless of their professional status or familiarity with a specific vehicle.

3. Testing and Driver Glare

The testing conducted by DCNA in a dark tunnel, while valuable, does not fully replicate the dynamic and often unpredictable lighting conditions drivers face on actual roads. Real-world driving involves varying degrees of ambient light, reflections, and other visual distractions that DCNA's test scenario does not adequately simulate. FMVSS No. 101 is designed to account for a range of driving scenarios.

Additionally, the ability of drivers to adapt to different lighting conditions varies widely, and DCNA's test does not account for this variability. For example, what may not cause a glare for one driver in a specific testing scenario might cause a distraction or impairment for another in a different context.

Furthermore, outside of controlled test environments, drivers often encounter transient lighting conditions while passing through tunnels, emerging from underpasses, or facing the glare of oncoming headlights. In these scenarios, the ability to adjust the brightness of controls like HVAC systems becomes critically important to maintain visibility and prevent distraction. Testing in a consistently dark environment does not address these transient conditions, which are integral to FMVSS No. 101's focus on facilitating proper control selection under varying lighting.

4. Potential for Overly Bright Controls

The possibility that the illumination of controls could be overly bright and impair the vision of the driver underscores the importance of compliance with FMVSS No. 101's

[8] *See Morgan 3 Wheeler Limited; Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance,* 81 FR 21663, 21666 (Apr. 12, 2016); *see also United States* v. *Gen. Motors Corp.,* 565 F.2d 754, 759 (D.C. Cir. 1977) (finding defect poses an unreasonable risk when it ''results in hazards as potentially dangerous as sudden engine fire, and where there is no dispute that at least some such hazards, in this case fires, can definitely be expected to occur in the future'').

dimmability requirement. The purpose of this requirement is to prevent such scenarios, ensuring that drivers can indeed adjust the brightness of controls in different driving conditions.

VIII. NHTSA's Decision

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA has decided that DCNA has not met its burden of persuasion that the subject FMVSS No. 101 noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, DCNA's petition is hereby denied, and DCNA is consequently obligated to provide notification of a free remedy for that noncompliance under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118(d), 30120(h): delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.95(a) and 501.8(g).

Eileen Sullivan,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 2026–05029 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0029]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Offer to Purchase and Contract of Sale, Credit Statement of Prospective Purchaser, Addendum To Offer To Purchase (Virginia)

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent by April 15, 2026.

ADDRESSES: To submit comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection, please type the following link into your browser: *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain,* select ''Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments'', then search the list for the information collection by Title or ''OMB Control No. 2900–XXXX.''

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dorothy Glasgow, 202–461–1084, *VAPRA@va.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Offer to Purchase and Contract of Sale (VA Form 26–6705), Credit Statement of Prospective Purchaser (VA Form 26–6705b), Addendum to Offer to Purchase (Virginia) (VA Form 26–6705d).

OMB Control Number: 2900–0029. *https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRASearch*.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: Under the authority of 38 U.S.C. 3720(a)(5) and (6) the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) acquires properties for sale to the general public utilizing a private Contractor. Without this collection, a determination of the best offer for a property and the highest net return/cash equivalent value HNR/CEV could not be made to determine the most financially advantageous purchase offer to VA (VA Form 26–6705); the creditworthiness of a prospective buyer could not be determined and the offer to purchase could not be accepted (VA Form 26–6705b or FNMA1003; and, proper acknowledgment of State law by the buyer at or prior to closing would not be made (VA Form 26–6705d)). VA has also added Nine (9) new forms that are used in connection with the sale of VA-acquired properties. Each form has a new estimated burden. The information collected through these forms is necessary to identify the property, document, buyer and seller acknowledgements, support financing and contract actions, and complete the real estate transactions.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 91 FR 765, January 8, 2026.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 4,572 hours annually.

Estimated Average Burden per Respondent: 7.91 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 38,040.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Dorothy Glasgow,

Acting VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026–05060 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of intent to file.

SUMMARY: We are giving notice that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs intends to renew the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee for a 2-year period. The Secretary has determined that the Committee is necessary and in the public interest.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeffrey Moragne, Committee Management Office, Department of Veterans Affairs, Advisory Committee Management Office (00AC), 811 Vermont Avenue, 4th Floor NW, Washington, DC 20420; telephone (202) 714–1578; or email at *Jeffrey.Moragne@va.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee ACT, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to renew the Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee (Committee or VRHAC) for two (2) years from the filing date of the charter's renewal. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of VA on rural health care issues affecting Veterans. The VHRAC examines programs and policies that impact the delivery of VA rural health care to Veterans and discusses ways to improve and enhance VA access to rural health care services for Veterans.

In addition, pursuant to 41 C.F.R section 102–3.65, the Department of Veterans Affairs provides this written notice determination stating that the Committee is in the public interest and found to be in accordance with the Federal Advisory Community Act (FACA), the 2025 FACA Final Rule, and current to the U.S. General Services Administration, Committee Management Secretariat guidance. The following factors below provide an overview of the Committee's operations and public interest intent.

Annual Budget—The overall operating costs for the Committee is $184,169. All members receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in

accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee. The expected costs are broken into:

(i) Federal personnel (based on full-time equivalent (FTE) usage basis) is .80 with other Federal internal costs being $135,369.

(ii) Proposed payments to Non-Federal Members is $3,218. Payments to Federal Members are $7,081. The Committee is composed of not more than 12 appointed members and up to 3 ex-officio members.

(iii) Reimbursable costs equate to travel reimbursement for Non-Federal Members is $11,230, for Federal Members is $3,671 and for Federal Staff is $23,600.

This Committee does not have any dollar value of grants expected for the fiscal year.

Membership Selection—The Committee's membership includes academic experts in rural health care delivery, state and federal government professionals who focus on rural health issues, Department of Veterans Affairs officials at the state level, and selected Veterans service organization leaders. VHRAC members range from patient care advocates to medical policy strategists. Additionally, the Committee works with the Department's Advisory Committee Management Office, the Committee Chair, and the Office of Rural Health (ORD) leadership to ensure the committee is balanced ethnically and geographically to include representation of all five minority groups mandated by law: African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native American, including American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian.

Existing Federal Advisory Committees—The following list are the 27 VA advisory committees includes 18 that are statute (with an asterisk *) and 9 non-statutory committees.

(1) VA National Academic Affiliations Council
*(2) Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials
(3) Cooperative Studies Scientific Evaluation Committee
*(4) Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation
*(5) Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education
*(6) Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards (Administratively Inactive)
*(7) Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War
*(8) Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee
*(9) Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses
(10) Health Systems Research Service Merit Review Board
*(11) Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans
(12) Joint Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Clinical Science Research and Development Services Scientific Merit Review Board
*(13) Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans
(14) National Research Advisory Council
*(15) Advisory Committee on U.S. Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States
*(16) Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special Disabilities Programs
*(17) Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans
*(18) Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation
(19) Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board
(20) Veterans' Rural Health Advisory Committee
*(21) Special Medical Advisory Group
*(22) Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities
*(23) Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs
(24) Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee
*(25) Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board
(26) Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee
*(27) Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

Justification—VRHAC continues to provide valuable external rural health stakeholder perspective regarding rural health care and the challenges of accessing and delivering services in rural and highly rural areas. Stakeholder representation of Federal, state, regional, and local organizations is good; though proposed solutions to overcoming challenges specific to rural Veterans are often limited by implementation feasibility in the VA and the Veterans Health Administration.

Summary of Previous Committee Accomplishments—The Committee's standard operations entail conducting one local meeting in Washington, DC to receive updates from VA Senior Leaders, and one site visit to a VA facility with a high concentration of rural Veterans. Its meetings focus on evaluating the programs and initiatives of VHA's ORD and its VHA program office partners; and on recommending ways to improve. The Committee evaluates current VA rural health program activities and identifies existing barriers to rural health services. It recommends strategies to improve those services for Veterans to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Why Committee is Essential—VRHAC provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on health care issues that affect Veterans residing in rural areas. The Committee meets at least twice annually to discuss programs and policies that impact the provision of VA health care to Veterans. This is obtained from its committee meetings and through the valuable external rural health stakeholder perspective regarding rural health care and the challenges of accessing and delivering services in rural and highly rural areas.

In conclusion, this Notice of Intent states that this renewing ommittee is in the public interest, essential to the conduct of agency business and that the information provided is not available through any other advisory committee or source within the Federal Government.

Dated: March 12, 2026.

LaTonya L. Small,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–05111 Filed 3–13–26; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL REGISTER

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Part II

Department of the Interior

Endangered Species Committee Meeting Announcement; Notice

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Endangered Species Committee Meeting Announcement

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Endangered Species Committee will meet regarding an Endangered Species Act exemption for Gulf of America Oil and Gas Activities.

DATES: March 31, 2026.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, in his capacity as Chairman, has called a meeting of the Endangered Species Committee for Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington, DC.

The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1978 (Amendments) create the Endangered Species Committee, see Section 7(e)(1) of the Act. The Endangered Species Committee is made up of six permanent Federal members, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Army, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Committee is meeting regarding an exemption under the Endangered Species Act with respect to oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities in the Gulf of America associated with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Program.

The meeting will be open to the public through livestreaming on *https://youtube.com/live/iC3xyp4GxRE?feature=share.* The meeting will also be recorded and accessible at the *DOI.gov/live* events page for 60 days after the event.

Christopher Danley,

Deputy Solicitor for Energy & Mineral Resources, Department of the Interior.

[FR Doc. 2026–05242 Filed 3–13–26; 6:15 pm]

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