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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

15 CFR Part 50

[Docket No: 260701–0159]

RIN 0607–AA65

Age Search Fee Structure

AGENCY: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Census Bureau provides an Age Search service of confidential records from the 1910 to 2020 decennial censuses and can issue an official transcript of the results to authorized individuals. With this rule, the Census Bureau will increase the fee for conducting an Age Search from $65.00 to $155.00. The Census Bureau will increase the additional charge for expedited requests requiring search results within one day from $20.00 per case to $50.00 per case. These changes are needed to reflect the actual operating costs associated with processing an Age Search request which were last revised in 2004.

DATES: This rule is effective August 7, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact the Age Search service help line by telephone at 812–218–3046, by email at *npc.age.search@census.gov* or by mail at U.S. Census Bureau, P.O. Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47131.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Age Search allows individuals to request transcripts of their confidential census records before they are released to the public. Historically, these records have been used by people who may not have had a birth certificate to prove their age as statewide registration and reporting of births did not happen consistently in all states until the early 1930s.

The Age Search census transcript provides proof of age to qualify individuals for Social Security or other retirements benefits; provides secondary proof of citizenship to apply for passports; [1] provides proof of family relationships for documentation related to rights of inheritance; or satisfies other situations where a birth certificate is required but not available. Individuals may request the Age Search service to access their own records. Census information is confidential and ordinarily will not be furnished to another person unless the person to whom it relates authorizes this on the application or if the record requested is that of a minor child, mentally incompetent person, or deceased person. In the latter two cases, the application must be accompanied by additional documentation, such as court orders naming the legal representative. The censuses in custody of the Census Bureau are confidential and protected from disclosure by 13 U.S.C. 9. No transcript of any record will be furnished in violation of the applicable statutory confidentiality restrictions.

The Age Search service is designed to be a self-supporting operation, conducted in accordance with 13 U.S.C. 8(a). Under this statute, all expenses incurred in the retrieval of personal information from decennial census records and the preparation of decennial census transcripts are intended to be covered by fees paid by individuals who request this service. To help maintain the self-supporting financial status of this service as operating costs increase, the Census Bureau will update the August 2004 rule, 04–17359 (69 FR 45579), for the fee structure.

Response to Comments

A proposed rule was published on February 23, 2026 (91 FR 8395). The Census Bureau received one comment which was non-responsive to the proposed changes in the rule. Therefore, the Census Bureau is finalizing the rule with no changes.

Program Requirements

With this rule, the Census Bureau is amending at 15 CFR part 50.5 to update the fee structure for age search and citizenship information. The Census Bureau will increase the fee structure for searches of one census for one person and producing one transcript from $65.00 to $155.00. The Census Bureau will also increase the additional charge per case for expedited requests requiring search results within one day from $20.00 to $50.00. The new fee structure was calculated using 1,614 average annual requests, the 2 hours on average needed to process each request, and the 2025 hourly rates of the two GS–5 employees who currently respond to these requests.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Chief Counsel for Regulation of the Department of Commerce certifies to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Most, if not all, respondents affected by the fee increase are individuals, not small or large businesses. Those businesses who will be affected will only be impacted minimally. The projected number of individual Age Search cases is 1,614 for fiscal year 2025.

A unique characteristic of the Age Search service is its self-supporting design. Congress passed a law in 1954 that stipulated that this service be funded by the individuals requesting the service (13 U.S.C. 8[a]). The National Processing Center does not receive any federal appropriations or tax monies for the Age Search service. Consequently, the searching process of the census records and associated operating costs are designed to be funded by the fees received with the applications.

Due to increases in operating costs since the last Age Search fee increase in 2004, and to help maintain the self-supporting financial status, it has become necessary to increase the fee. The Census Bureau will increase the fee structure for searches of one census for one person and producing one transcript from $65.00 to $155.00. The Census Bureau will also increase the additional charge per case for expedited requests requiring search results within one day from $20.00 to $50.00. These changes reflect the actual operating costs associated with processing an Age Search request. The new fee structure was calculated using the average annual number of requests, the average number

[1] See guidance provided by the U.S. Department of State at *https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply/citizenship-evidence.html.*

of hours needed to process each request, and the 2025 hourly rates of the employees responding to the requests.

Executive Orders

This rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. This rule does not contain policies with federalism implications as that term is defined in Executive Order 13132. This rule is not expected to be an E.O. 14192 regulatory action because it is not significant under E.O. 12866..

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), this final rule also announces the Census Bureau's intent to reinstate an expired information collection under OMB Control Number 0607–0117. To access the current materials pending with OMB, go to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain* and select ''Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function and entering either the title of the collection or OMB Control Number 0607–0117. All comments should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of the final rule. The substance of the comments and the identity of the individuals or entities submitting the comments will be subject to public disclosure and will be available via *http://www.reginfo.gov* after the collection is finalized.

The rule makes changes to the collection including:

- A decrease in burden from 531 hours to 353.4 hours due to fewer annual respondents; and
- A fee structure change per the changes in the rule; and

In addition, the Census Bureau will make minor updates to the forms such as adding the 2020 Census as a choice for a census record search.

Comments from the public concerning our information collection and recordkeeping requirements. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the information collection is necessary for the proper performance of our agency's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond.

Estimate of burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 12 minutes per response.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 1,920.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 1.

Estimated annual number of responses: 1,920.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 353.4 hours.

(Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

List of Subjects in 15 CFR Part 50

Census data, Population census, Statistics.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Census Bureau amends 15 CFR part 50.5 as follows:

PART 50—SPECIAL SERVICES AND STUDIES BY THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

■ 1. The authority citation for 15 CFR Part 50 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1525–1527; and 13 U.S.C. 3 and 8.

■ 2. Revise § 50.5 to read as follows:

§ 50.5 Fee structure for age search and citizenship information.

Type of service	Fee
Search of one census for one person and one transcript	$155.00
Each additional copy of census transcript	2.00
Each full schedule requested [1]	10.00

[1] The $10.00 for each full schedule requested is in addition to the $155.00 transcript fee.
Note: An additional charge of $50.00 per case is charged for expedited requests requiring search results within one day.

Dated: July 6, 2026.

George Cook,

Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Director of the Census Bureau.

[FR Doc. 2026–13801 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[Docket No. USCG–2026–0816]

Special Local Regulations; Marine Events Within the Sector Columbia River Captain of the Port Zone

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notification of enforcement of regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will enforce special local regulations at various locations in the Sector Columbia River Captain of the Port Zone from July 24, 2026, to September 5, 2026. This action is necessary to provide for the safety of life and property on these navigable waters during marine events. During the enforcement periods, the operator of any vessel in the regulated area must comply with the directions from the Patrol Commander or any official patrol vessel.

DATES: The regulations in 33 CFR 100.1302 will be enforced for the regulated areas identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below on July 24, 2026 through July 26, 2026 and September 5, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this notice of enforcement, call or email Lieutenant Commander Jesse Wallace, Waterways Management Division, Sector Columbia River, Coast Guard; telephone 503–572–3524, email *SCRWWM@USCG.MIL.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coast Guard will enforce special local regulations in 33 CFR 100.1302 for the following events found in lines 4 and 8 of Table 1 to § 100.1302. The event in line 4, Kennewick Hydroplane Races, will be held from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on July 24, 2026 through July 26, 2026 in Kennewick, WA. Regulated area includes all navigable waters within the Columbia River in the vicinity of Columbia Park, commencing 75 yards east (downriver) of the Interstate 395 Bridge and continuing up river approximately 2.0 miles and terminating at the northern end of Wade Island.

The event in line 8, Columbia Crossing Swim, will be held on

September 5, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Pasco, WA. Regulated area includes all navigable waters, bank-to-bank of the Columbia River in Pasco, Washington, between river mile 332 and river mile 335.

During the enforcement periods, as reflected in § 100.1302, if you are the operator of a vessel in the regulated area you must comply with the lawful directions from the Patrol Commander or any official patrol vessel. Vessels may not transit the regulated areas without approval from the Patrol Commander. Vessels permitted to transit must operate at a no wake speed, in a manner which will not endanger participants or other crafts in the event. Spectators or other vessels shall not anchor, block, loiter or impede the transit of event participants or official patrol vessels in the regulated areas during the effective dates and times, or dates and times as modified through Local Notice to Mariners, unless authorized by an official patrol vessel. In addition to this notice of enforcement in the **Federal Register**, the Coast Guard will provide notification of these enforcement periods via the Local Notice to Mariners and marine information broadcasts.

Anthony R. Migliorini,

CAPT, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector Columbia River.

[FR Doc. 2026–13763 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 1 and 43

[OI Docket No. 24–523; MD Docket No. 24–524; FCC 25–49; FR ID 355112]

Review of Submarine Cable Landing License Rules and Procedures To Assess Evolving National Security, Law Enforcement, Foreign Policy, and Trade Policy Risks

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule; announcement of effective date.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) announces that the Office of Management and Budget has approved new information collection requirements under OMB Control Numbers 3060–1156 and 3060–0944, as adopted by the Commission's Report and Order, FCC 25–49.

DATES: Amendatory instructions 6 (§ 1.767), 7 (§ 1.768), 10 (§ 1.70002), 11 (§ 1.70003), 12 (§§ 1.70005 and 1.70006), 13 (§ 1.70007), 14 (§§ 1.70008 and 1.70009), 15 (§§ 1.70011 through 1.70013), 16 (§ 1.70016), 17 (§ 1.70017), 18 (§ 1.70020), 19 (§§ 1.70023 and 1.70024), and 22 (§ 43.82), published at 90 FR 48648 on October 27, 2025, are effective July 8, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Cathy Williams, Office of the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, at (202) 418–2918 or *Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document announces that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the information collection requirements in 47 CFR 1.767, 1.768, 1.70002, 1.70003, 1.70005, 1.70006, 1.70007, 1.70008, 1.70009, 1.70011, 1.70012, 1.70013, 1.70016, 1.70017, 1.70020, 1.70023, 1.70024, and 43.82 on June 26, 2026. The Commission publishes this document as an announcement of the effective date for this final rule.

Synopsis

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), the Commission is notifying the public that it received final OMB approval on June 26, 2026, for the information collection requirements contained in 47 CFR 1.767, 1.768, 1.70002, 1.70003, 1.70005, 1.70006, 1.70007, 1.70008, 1.70009, 1.70011, 1.70012, 1.70013, 1.70016, 1.70017, 1.70020, 1.70023, 1.70024, and 43.82. Under 5 CFR part 1320, an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a current, valid OMB Control Number.

No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act that does not display a current, valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for the information collection that includes the requirements in 47 CFR 1.767, 1.768, 1.70002, 1.70003, 1.70005, 1.70006, 1.70007, 1.70008, 1.70009, 1.70011, 1.70012, 1.70013, 1.70016, 1.70017, 1.70020, 1.70023, 1.70024, and 43.82 is 3060–0944. The OMB Control Number for the information collection that includes the requirements in 47 CFR 43.82 is 3060–1156.

The foregoing notice is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13, October 1, 1995, and 44 U.S.C. 3507.

The total annual reporting burdens and costs for the respondents are as follows:

OMB Control Number: 3060–0944.

Title: Cable Landing License Act; Executive Order 10530, 47 CFR 170000–1.70024, 1.40001, 1.40003.

OMB Approval Date: June 26, 2026.

OMB Expiration Date: June 30, 2029.

Form Numbers: SCL–LIC—Submarine Cable Landing License Application (revising form); SCL–STA—Submarine Cable Landing License Special Temporary Authority (revising form); SCL–FCN—Submarine Cable Landing License Foreign Carrier Affiliation (revising form); SCL–ASG/TC—Submarine Cable Landing License Assignment or Transfer of Control of License (revising form); SCL–LPN—Submarine Cable Landing License Landing Point Notification (revising form); SCL–MOD—Submarine Cable Landing License Modification (revising form); SCL–RWL—Submarine Cable Landing License Renewal (revising form); Foreign Adversary Annual Report (new form); One-Time Covered List Certification (new form); One-Time Cybersecurity and Physical Security Certification (new form).

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities and State, Local or Tribal Governments.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 429 respondents; 472 responses.

Estimated Hours per Response: 4 to 320 hours per response.

Frequency of Response: On occasion, Annual, and One-time reporting requirements; Recordkeeping requirement, and Third-party disclosure requirement.

Total Annual Burden: 14,180 hours.

Total Annual Cost: $4,354,490.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. The statutory authority for this information collection is contained in §§ 1, 4(i), 4(j), 201–255, 303(r), 403, 413 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 201–255, 303(r), 403, 413, and the Cable Landing License Act of 1921, 47 U.S.C. 34–39, and Executive Order No. 10530, § 5(a) (May 12, 1954) reprinted as amended in 3 U.S.C. 301.

Needs and Uses: On August 13, 2025, the Commission released a Report and Order, FCC 25–49, OI Docket No. 24–523 and MD Docket No. 24–524, titled ''Review of Submarine Cable Landing License Rules and Procedures to Assess Evolving National Security, Law Enforcement, Foreign Policy, and Trade Policy Risks.'' In this Report and Order (Order), the Commission clarified when a cable landing license is required under the Cable Landing License Act to provide regulatory certainty to submarine cable owners and operators, updated application requirements and definitions to provide a clear regulatory framework, while also making targeted adjustments for national security purposes, and modernized the

definition of ''submarine cable system'' to better reflect the range of technological advancements and components of current systems.

The Order also adopted foreign adversary definitions to protect the security of submarine cables by presumptively precluding the grant of applications filed by an applicant owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign adversary and/or identified on the Commission's Covered List, among others. There is also a presumption that denial of an application is warranted where an applicant seeks to land a submarine cable in a foreign adversary country or add a new landing located in a foreign adversary country. Importantly, licensees are now prohibited from entering into certain IRU or capacity lease arrangements, where it would give a foreign adversary-controlled entity the ability to install, own, or manage Submarine Line Terminal Equipment (SLTE) on a submarine cable landing in the United States. Licensees owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign adversary and/or identified on the Covered List, among others, are required to file a Foreign Adversary Annual Report to protect submarine cable infrastructure. The collection of this information is critical to the Commission's review of submarine cable applications and cable landing licensees for national security purposes and will advance its efforts to protect the security, integrity, and resilience of this critical U.S. infrastructure.

Relatedly, the Commission transitioned its International Communications Filing System (ICFS) to a new cloud-based platform in June 2025. Following OMB's approval of modifications to this information collection, the Commission will develop and submit for OMB review revised submarine cable application forms and new forms to comply with the new requirements. Until the new and revised electronic forms are approved by OMB, submarine cable applicants and licensees will be required to provide the information required by the *Submarine Cable Report and Order* by submitting the current application forms and providing additional information as required in an attachment filed in ICFS.

Additional rules related to information collection: Although there are no changes to 47 CFR 1.40001 and 1.40003 in the Order, the information collection for OMB Control No. 3060–0944 considered anticipated costs the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the U.S. Telecommunications Services Sector (Committee) would incur for reviewing applications for national security and law enforcement concerns. Specifically, the Committee anticipated that it will incur costs for development and maintenance of an online portal for the filing and retention of Standard Question responses that we reported previously. Therefore, the rules at 47 CFR 1.40001 and 1.40003 have been incorporated into the cost calculations.

OMB Control Number: 3060–1156.

Title: 47 CFR 43.82, Annual International Circuit Capacity Reports.

OMB Approval Date: June 26, 2026.

OMB Expiration Date: June 30, 2029.

Form Number: N/A.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities and State, Local or Tribal Governments.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 133 respondents; 266 responses.

Estimated Hours per Response: 1 to 20 hours per response.

Frequency of Response: Annual reporting requirement.

Total Annual Burden: 2,793 hours.

Total Annual Cost: $12,000.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. The statutory authority for this information collection is contained in §§ 1, 4(i), 4(j), 201–255, 303(r), 403, 413 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 201–255, 303(r), 403, 413, and the Cable Landing License Act of 1921, 47 U.S.C. 34–39, and Executive Order No. 10530, § 5(a) (May 12, 1954) reprinted as amended in 3 U.S.C. 301.

Needs and Uses: The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) received approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the revised information collection for the annual submarine cable circuit capacity reports required pursuant to the Cable Landing License Act of 1921 and § 43.82 of the Commission's rules. On August 7, 2025, the Commission adopted a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Submarine Report and Order), FCC 25–49, that modernized the Commission's submarine cable rules, including adopting new rules regarding the annual circuit capacity reports. With respect to the annual submarine cable circuit capacity data collection, the Commission modified the circuit capacity reporting requirements to enhance the quality and usefulness of the data for national security and other purposes, provide greater clarity to licensees and common carriers (Filing Entities) on the reporting requirements for Filing Entities, and eliminated duplicative burdens. Specifically, the Commission eliminated the requirement for licensees to file a Cable Operator Report about the capacity on a cable and instead required Filing Entities to file one report, the Capacity Holder Report, on an individual basis. They also retained important information from the Cable Operator Report by integrating and clarifying information about available, planned, and design capacity that was previously reported in the Cable Operator Report.

The Commission requires Filing Entities to report their capacity on domestic cables, as the lack of this information created a critical gap regarding the ownership and use of capacity on submarine cables regulated by the Commission. Filing Entities should also identify, with respect to each sale, lease, or purchase of a fiber pair and/or spectrum, the submarine cable, the U.S. and foreign landing points of the fiber pair and/or spectrum, and the entity that manages the fiber pair and/or spectrum, if different from the entity that owns it. Filing Entities are also required to provide certain information about their submarine line terminal equipment (SLTEs) in the Capacity Holder Report as SLTEs are among the most important equipment associated with the submarine cable system for national security and law enforcement purposes.

Additionally, the Commission allowed any subsidiary, parent entity, or affiliate to file the Capacity Holder Report on behalf of a licensee(s) or common carrier(s), so long as the legal name of the licensee or common carrier is identified in the report and an officer of the licensee or common carrier certifies that the information in the report is accurate and complete. The Order codified a compliance provision in § 43.82 of the rules and modified § 43.82 of the rules to allow the Commission to share with the Committee, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the State Department the capacity data filed on a confidential basis without the pre-notification requirements of 47 CFR 0.442(d). The Commission's Office of International Affairs (OIA) received directions to revise the Filing Manual to conform with the changes adopted in the Submarine Cable Report and Order.

The Commission has found that the data from the annual circuit capacity reports are necessary for the Commission to fulfill its statutory obligations. Importantly, pursuant to the Submarine Cable Report and Order, the Commission will now receive circuit capacity information on domestic cables and require the reporting of information about SLTEs. The Commission found

that the data from the circuit capacity reports also serves a vital role by sharing this information with other federal agencies. The Committee regularly requests this data for its work on national security and law enforcement issues, as has DHS for its national security and homeland security functions.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–13765 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Office of Federal Procurement Policy

48 CFR Parts 9903 and 9904

RIN 0348–AB90

Conformance of Cost Accounting Standards to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for Cost Accounting Standards 404, 408, 409, and 411

AGENCY: Cost Accounting Standards Board, Office of Management and Budget.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Cost Accounting Standards Board (the Board), is publishing a final rule wholly rescinding Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) 408 and 411 and rescinding most provisions of CAS 404 and 409 to conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The remaining content from CAS 404 and 409 is transferred to a different location within the Code of Federal Regulations. This final rule follows issuance of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

DATES: *Effective date:* August 7, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John L. McClung, Manager, Cost Accounting Standards Board (telephone: 202–881–9758; email: *OMBCASB@omb.eop.gov*).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On September 11, 2025, the Board published an NPRM (90 FR 43994) to solicit views on the Board's provisional conclusions regarding conformance of CAS 404, 408, 409, and 411 to GAAP. The NPRM noted that the vast majority of CAS 404 and CAS 409 could be rescinded and that CAS 408 and CAS 411 could be rescinded in their entirety.

The Board has determined that despite the difference in general focus between CAS and GAAP, there has been significant convergence over the years as GAAP has evolved to address cost measurement and assignment of costs to accounting periods. GAAP now contains codified content in these areas very similar to the requirements contained in CAS 404, 408, 409, and 411. In addition, the creation of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and the Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) as the recognized financial accounting and reporting standards for GAAP fosters increased uniformity and consistency. The FASB is recognized today by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as the designated accounting standard-setter for public companies. FASB standards are also recognized as authoritative by many other organizations, including State Boards of Accountancy and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The Board has concluded that these developments have created opportunities to amend or rescind overlapping CAS requirements—many of which have remained unchanged for over 50 years—where GAAP standards under ASC may be applied reasonably as a substitute for CAS to support contract cost and pricing.

The Board has concluded that the content of CAS 408 and 411, as well as most of the content of CAS 404 and 409, has become unnecessary because the Government interests addressed by that content are adequately protected through reliance on GAAP, existing requirements in other CAS standards, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Due to the minimal amount of content from CAS 404 and 409 identified for retention, the Board has concluded that moving the retained requirements to another standard rather than maintaining two standards with little content would best achieve the goal of streamlining CAS.

This final rule reflects input from the public, as well as research conducted by the Board. This action complies with applicable requirements of 41 U.S.C. 1502 and furthers the Board's performance of its duties under 41 U.S.C. 1501(c), which requires, among other things, that the Board: (1) ensure that the cost accounting standards used by Federal contractors rely, to the maximum extent practicable, on commercial standards and accounting practices and systems; and (2) conform CAS, where practicable, to GAAP.

II. CAS 404—Capitalization of Tangible Assets

A. Overview and Conclusion

CAS 404 was initially published February 27, 1973, at 38 FR 5318. It requires contractors, for the purposes of cost measurement, to establish and adhere to policies with respect to capitalization of the acquisition costs of tangible assets. CAS 404 also established criteria for required policies and procedures. CAS 404 was modified in 1996 when CAS 404–50(d) was added to address the treatment of gains or losses attributable to tangible capital assets subsequent to mergers or business combinations by Federal contractors, along with other relatively modest changes. With the exception of the 1996 additions, CAS 404 has remained static for over 50 years.

As noted in the NPRM, comparison of CAS 404 requirements with pertinent GAAP content revealed significant overlap and equivalent requirements with the noted exception of CAS 404–50(d)(1), which protects the Government from paying duplicative costs when Federal contractors merge or are acquired. Absent the requirements of CAS 404–50(d)(1), the Government would be at risk if an asset increased in value such that the combined depreciation recognized by both the acquired company and the acquiring company for government contracts exceeded the original cost of the asset. For all other requirements in CAS 404, a comparable requirement exists in GAAP that would promote uniformity and consistency in the measurement and assignment of the capitalized cost of tangible assets to cost accounting periods. In addition, the requirements contained in CAS 401 and 402 (CAS consistency standards) and CAS 403, 410, and 418 (CAS allocation standards) apply to all contractors subject to CAS 404 and protect the Government's interests.

The Board has therefore concluded that, in the absence of CAS 404, the Government's interests will be adequately protected by relying on other CAS standards and on disclosed GAAP practices that are consistently followed and subject to notice of changes and cost recovery. All contractors, whether subject to full or modified CAS coverage, are subject to CAS 401 and CAS 402 and will continue to be required to consistently follow their disclosed or actual cost accounting practices. Contractors will also continue to be bound by the 9903.201–4 CAS contract clauses, which require disclosure and consistency in cost accounting practices, regardless of

whether a specific standard exists. These contract clauses implement the disclosure requirements of 41 U.S.C. 1502(f)(1) and provide for the contractor, not the Government, to bear cost increases that result from changes to the contractor's cost accounting practices, as required by 41 U.S.C. 1502(f)(2). Furthermore, contractors currently subject to CAS 404 are those subject to full coverage and will continue to be subject to the CAS allocation standards. CAS allocation standards address areas required to adequately protect the Government's interest that are not covered by GAAP, such as allocation of indirect costs to contracts.

In summary, the Board has concluded that CAS 404, with the exception of CAS 404–50(d)(1), has become unnecessary to protect the Government's interests, which may be achieved through reliance on GAAP, the CAS consistency standards, and the CAS allocation standards. Therefore, the Board is rescinding CAS 404 while retaining the requirements from CAS 404–50(d)(1) by relocating them to a new paragraph 9904.405–40(g). The new paragraph will also include the retained requirements from CAS 409 discussed in Section IV below.

This action is consistent with the Board's statutory duties and guiding principles for conforming CAS to GAAP because it rescinds CAS content to minimize the burden on contractors, while protecting the interests of the Government. Furthermore, rescinding CAS 404 aligns with the guiding principle to rely on coverage in GAAP when it would promote uniformity and consistency in cost accounting without bias or prejudice to the Government or contractors.

As noted in the NPRM, the Board did not identify any instance where the recission of CAS 404 would result in a change to a contractor's disclosed cost accounting practices for government contracts. With the noted exception of CAS 404–50(d)(1), which is being retained, the current CAS 404 requirements are nearly identical to GAAP. The Board expects that contractors would continue to follow their existing practices as they would continue to be compliant with both CAS and GAAP. Because the rescission of most of CAS 404 should not require a change in contractor cost accounting practices, the Board does not expect that the promulgation of this rule would justify treating a change a contractor makes related to capitalization of the acquisition costs of tangible assets as a ''required change'' within the meaning of CAS 9903.201–6(a). As discussed further in the discussions of public comments, respondents did not identify any instances in which such treatment would be appropriate.

B. Summary of Public Comments CAS 404

The Board received four sets of public comments regarding the NPRM: two from industry associations and two from individuals. Comments generally agreed with the Board's provisional conclusions in the NPRM. Specific comments and discussion are detailed below.

Comment: One commenter believes the Board has not gone far enough to conform to GAAP because it proposed to retain CAS 404–50(d)(1). In contrast, another commenter viewed the Board's proposed rescission of any CAS standard as going too far. The commenter does not believe rescission of any standard is necessary for conformance to GAAP. *Response:* In carrying out the duties required by 41 U.S.C. 1501(c), the Board has considered the factors in 41 U.S.C. 1502(c)(2) and concluded that rescinding CAS 404 and retaining only the content from 404–50(d)(1) will result in improvements in the pricing and administration of contracts subject to CAS. This final rule is consistent with the Board's statutory duties and guiding principles for conforming CAS to GAAP because it rescinds CAS content to minimize the burden on contractors while protecting the interests of the Government.

Comment: One commenter suggested the Board duplicate language from the retained requirements of CAS 404–50(d)(1) in CAS 405 to avoid unintentionally penalizing contractors by disallowing part of their legitimate indirect costs. The commenter expressed concern that, if the content of CAS 404 were rescinded or relocated as proposed, a contractor might be required to include increased depreciation costs resulting from a step-up in the value of a tangible asset due to a merger or acquisition in the base for allocating indirect costs, even though CAS 404–50(d)(1) calls for a no step-up, no step-down approach. That would decrease the percentage of otherwise allowable indirect costs that could be recovered through the contract. *Response:* The Board has reconsidered the proposed location of CAS 406 for the retained content, and the final rule locates the retained content in CAS 405. The Board has concluded that CAS 404 more closely aligns with CAS 405 and will also avoid confusion and the unintended consequence and concern raised by this comment.

Comment: One commenter believes the Board should exempt all accounting changes related to ''CAS–GAAP harmonization'' from the cost and price adjustment requirements of CAS part 9903.

Response: The Board has previously communicated to the public that it will evaluate each CAS-to-GAAP conformance action individually. In the case of CAS 404, no exemption from the adjustment requirements is warranted. As the Board has already explained, there is no reason to assume that a change in contractor accounting practices following the effective date of this final rule will be a necessary result of the changes to CAS 404.

III. CAS 408—Accounting for Costs of Compensated Personal Absence

A. Overview and Conclusion

CAS 408 was initially published September 19, 1974, at 39 FR 33681. The stated purpose of the standard was to improve, and provide uniformity in, the measurement of costs of vacation, sick leave, holiday, and other compensated personal absence for a cost accounting period, and thereby increase the probability that the measured costs are allocated to the proper cost objectives. CAS 408 has remained static for over 50 years.

As noted in the NPRM, comparison of CAS 408 with pertinent GAAP content revealed significant overlap and nearly completely equivalent requirements. For each requirement in CAS 408, a comparable requirement exists in GAAP that promotes uniformity and consistency in the measurement and assignment of costs of compensated personal absences to cost accounting periods. The Board identified only one significant difference between CAS and GAAP in this area. GAAP requires accruing both accumulated and vested rights, but CAS only requires accruing vested rights. The Board concluded that this difference is immaterial and that using GAAP still provides sufficient uniformity and consistency. Furthermore, as discussed in Section II above, the CAS consistency and allocation standards, in conjunction with 9903.201–4 CAS contract clauses, adequately protect the Government's interests by protecting the Government from payment of increased costs as a result of changes to a contractor's accounting practices.

In summary, the Board has concluded that CAS 408 has become unnecessary to protect the Government's interests, which may be achieved through reliance on GAAP, and the CAS consistency and

allocation standards. Therefore, the Board is rescinding CAS 408.

This action is consistent with the Board's statutory duties and guiding principles for conforming CAS to GAAP because it rescinds CAS content to minimize the burden on contractors while protecting the interests of the Government. Furthermore, rescinding CAS 408 aligns with the guiding principle to rely on coverage in GAAP when doing so would promote uniformity and consistency in cost accounting without bias or prejudice to either the Government or contractors.

The Board has concluded that rescission of CAS 408 could in some cases result in changes in accounting practices, as GAAP allows the assignment of certain costs to earlier cost accounting periods than CAS 408 currently permits. Because GAAP requires estimates and adjustments for forfeitures, the Board has concluded these differences would only result in immaterial timing differences. As such, to streamline administration of the transition and eliminate unnecessary burden, the Board is exempting these changes from the required cost impact process by adding subsection (b) to section 9903.201–9.

B. Summary of Public Comments for CAS 408

The comments discussed in Section II did not identify any additional issues specific to CAS 408 beyond those already addressed.

IV. CAS 409—Depreciation of Tangible Capital Assets

A. Overview and Conclusion

CAS 409 was initially published January 29, 1975, at 40 FR 4259. The purpose of CAS 409 is to provide criteria and guidance for assigning costs of tangible capital assets to cost accounting periods and for allocating such costs in cost objectives within such periods in an objective and consistent manner. CAS 409 is based on the concept that depreciation costs identified with cost accounting periods and benefiting cost objectives within periods should be a reasonable measure of the expiration of service potential of the tangible assets subject to depreciation. The original preamble to the 1975 rulemaking also noted that depreciation cost was a significant issue at the time, and explained that many contractors primarily relied on the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to measure depreciation costs. The IRC contained accelerated depreciation methods for tax purposes, and the Board viewed this as inequitable and improper cost accounting because the methods did not distribute the depreciation expense over the useful life of the asset. GAAP now prohibits using the accelerated depreciation methods in the IRC for financial reporting purposes if the amounts do not fall within a reasonable range of the asset's useful life. Thus, one of the principal concerns for the promulgation of CAS 409 no longer exists. In addition, GAAP has added significant content since the initial promulgation of CAS 409, while CAS for the most part has not changed over the last 50 years.

As noted in the NPRM, the comparison of CAS 409 with pertinent GAAP content revealed significant overlap and nearly completely equivalent requirements with the noted exceptions of CAS 409–50(e)(5), CAS 409–50(j)(1), and CAS 409–50(j)(4). For all other requirements in CAS 409, a comparable requirement exists in GAAP to enhance uniformity and consistency in the measurement and assignment of depreciation costs to cost accounting periods. The Board has concluded that reliance on GAAP would promote uniformity and consistency in cost accounting. Furthermore, as discussed in Section II above, the CAS consistency and allocation standards in conjunction with 9903.201–4 CAS contract clauses adequately protect the Government's interests by protecting the Government from payment of increased costs as a result of changes to a contractor's accounting practices.

In summary, the Board has concluded that the provisions of CAS 409, with the exception of CAS 409–50(e)(5), CAS 409–50(j)(1), and CAS 409–50(j)(4), have become unnecessary to protect the Government's interests. CAS 409–50(e)(5) provides valuable flexibility by allowing the contracting parties to agree on the estimated service life of individual tangible capital assets where the unique purpose for which the equipment was acquired or other special circumstances warrant a shorter estimated service life than the one that would result from the application of other approaches. CAS 409–50(j)(1) ensures that gains and losses resulting from the disposition of tangible capital assets are properly measured and assigned consistent with the costs of the associated depreciation charged. CAS 409–50(j)(4) protects the Government against shifting of gains and losses associated with the disposition of tangible capital assets transferred in other than an arms-length transaction that are subsequently disposed of within 12 months. Therefore, the Board is rescinding most provisions of CAS 409, but retaining the requirements of CAS 409–50(e)(5), CAS 409–50(j)(1), and CAS 409–50(j)(4) and relocating them to a new paragraph, 9904.405–40(g). The new paragraph 9904.405–40(g) will also include the retained requirement from CAS 404 discussed in Section II above.

This action is consistent with the Board's statutory duties and guiding principles for conforming CAS to GAAP because it rescinds CAS content to minimize the burden on contractors while protecting the interests of the Government. Furthermore, rescinding most provisions of CAS 409 aligns with the guiding principle to rely on coverage in GAAP when doing so would promote uniformity and consistency in cost accounting without bias or prejudice to either the Government or contractors. As noted in the NPRM, the Board did not identify any instance where the rescission of CAS 409 would require a change to a contractor's disclosed cost accounting practices for government contracts. With the noted exceptions of CAS 409–50(e)(5), CAS 409–50(j)(1), and CAS 409–50(j)(4), which are being retained, the current CAS requirements are nearly identical to GAAP. The Board expects that contractors would continue to follow their existing practices as they are compliant with both CAS and GAAP. As such, the Board does not expect that the promulgation of this final rule would justify treating a change a contractor makes related to depreciation costs as a ''required change'' within the meaning of 9903.201–6(b)(2). Public comments did not identify any instances in which such treatment would be appropriate.

B. Summary of Public Comments for CAS 409

The comments discussed in Section II did not identify any additional issues specific to CAS 409 beyond those already addressed. The Board previously communicated to the public that it will evaluate each CAS to GAAP conformance action individually. In the case of CAS 409, no exemption from the price and cost adjustment requirements of CAS part 9903 is warranted. As the Board has already explained, there is no reason to assume that a change in contractor accounting practices following the effective date of this final rule will be a necessary result of the changes to CAS 409.

V. CAS 411—Accounting for Acquisition Costs of Materials

A. Overview and Conclusion

CAS 411 was initially published on May 5, 1975, at 40 FR 19425. The purpose of CAS 411 is to provide criteria for the accounting for

acquisition costs of material and address the use of inventory costing methods. The majority of the CAS 411 standard has remained static since its initial promulgation. The standard was corrected in 1992 (57 FR 34167) to make clear that it does not cover accounting for the acquisition costs of tangible capital assets or accountability for government-furnished materials.

As noted in the NPRM, GAAP has been revised significantly with additional content and changes in requirements since the original promulgation of CAS 411, resulting in a significant overlap and nearly completely equivalent requirements between GAAP and CAS. For each requirement in CAS 411, a comparable requirement exists in GAAP, other CAS standards, or FAR 31.205–26, Material Costs, that would protect the Government's interests. The Board has concluded that rescission of CAS 411 would promote uniformity and consistency. Furthermore, as discussed in Section II above, CAS 401 and the 9903.201–4 CAS contract clauses adequately protect the Government's interests by protecting the Government from payment of increased costs as a result of changes to contractor's accounting practices.

This action is consistent with the Board's statutory duties and guiding principles for conforming CAS to GAAP because it rescinds CAS content to minimize the burden on contractors while protecting the interests of the Government. Furthermore, rescinding CAS 411 aligns with the guiding principle to rely on coverage in GAAP when doing so would promote uniformity and consistency in cost accounting without bias or prejudice to either the Government or contractors. As noted in the NPRM, the Board did not identify any instance where the recission of CAS 411 would result in a change to a contractor's disclosed cost accounting practices for government contracts. The current CAS requirements are nearly identical to GAAP. The Board expects that contractors would continue to follow their existing practices as they are compliant with both CAS and GAAP. As such, the Board does not expect that the rescission of CAS 411 would justify treating an accounting change a contractor subsequently makes as a ''required change'' within the meaning of 9903.201–6(b)(2). Public comments did not identify any instances in which such treatment would be appropriate.

B. Summary of Public Comments for CAS 411

The comments discussed in Section II did not identify any additional issues specific to CAS 411 beyond those already addressed. In addition, as noted, comments did not identify any instance where the recission of CAS 411 would result in a change to a contractor's disclosed cost accounting practices for government contracts. The Board previously communicated to the public that it will evaluate each CAS to GAAP conformance action individually. In the case of CAS 411, no exemption from the price and cost adjustment requirements of CAS part 9903 is warranted. As the Board has already explained, there is no reason to assume that a change in contractor accounting practices following the effective date of this final rule will be a necessary result of the rescission of CAS 411.

VI. Expected Impact of the Rule

This final rule is deregulatory in furtherance of 41 U.S.C. 1501(c), which requires the Board to ensure that the Cost Accounting Standards used by contractors rely, to the maximum extent practicable, on commercial standards and accounting practices and systems. In addition, 41 U.S.C. 1501(c) requires the Board to conform CAS requirements, where practicable, to GAAP. This rule rescinds four of the current 19 CAS in whole or in part, retaining and relocating only the minimum content the Board has identified as needed to protect the Government's interest. This results in the elimination of 68 of the 72 combined individual requirements contained in these four standards, and the removal of over 10,000 words of unnecessary regulatory text. Reliance on a contractor's disclosed GAAP practices for CAS purposes significantly reduces the regulatory footprint associated with CAS and places reliance on commercial accounting practices under GAAP consistent with 41 U.S.C. 1501(c). These changes will reduce burden for contractors, external auditors, government auditors, and oversight functions by reducing duplicative compliance requirements.

These changes individually and in conjunction with the Board's ongoing broader CAS-to-GAAP conformance efforts and modernization of the CAS programmatic requirements are expected to simplify CAS administration and reduce barriers to entry for non-traditional contractors, including new mid-size entities who no longer qualify as small businesses. These actions should increase competition in federal contracting, as envisioned by the Senate Armed Services Committee in promoting CAS-to-GAAP conformance (S. Rept. 114–25, Section 811): ''The committee is concerned that the current cost accounting standards favor incumbent defense contractors and limit competition by serving as a barrier to participation by non-traditional, small business, and commercial contractors. To level the competitive playing field to access new sources of innovation it is in the government's interest to adopt more commercial ways of contracting, accounting, and oversight.''

VII. Regulatory Flexibility Act

CAS Board rules do not impact small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601–612. Contracts and subcontracts with small business concerns are exempted from all CAS requirements.

VIII. Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 14192

Executive Orders (E.O.s) 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. E.O. 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility. This is not significant regulatory action under E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993. This rule is a deregulatory action under E.O. 14192 based on the discussion in Section VI above.

IX. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act, Public Law 96–511, does not apply to this final rule because this rule imposes no paperwork burden on offerors, affected contractors and subcontractors, or members of the public that would require the approval of OMB under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR 9903 and 9904

Government procurement, Cost accounting standards.

Kevin R. Rhodes,

Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, and Chair, Cost Accounting Standards Board.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Office of Federal Procurement Policy is amending chapter 99 of title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations as set forth below:

PART 9903—CONTRACT COVERAGE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 9903 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Public Law 111–350, 124 Stat. 3677, 41 U.S.C. 1502.

■ 2. In § 9903.201–9, add paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 9903.201–9 Treatment of certain compliant cost accounting practice changes related to conformance of CAS to GAAP.

* * * * *

(b) Conformance of CAS 408 to GAAP. The contract price and cost adjustment requirements of part 9903 are not applicable to changes directly associated with the conformance of CAS 408 to GAAP. Changes must be disclosed and made during the contractor's fiscal year directly following the effective date of the final rule rescinding CAS 408.

PART 9904—COST ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

■ 3. The authority citation for part 9904 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Pub. L. 100–679, 102 Stat. 4056, 41 U.S.C. 422.

Subpart 9904.404—[Removed and Reserved]

■ 4. Remove and reserve subpart 9904.404 *consisting of §§ 9904.404–20 through 9904.404–63.*

■ 5. In § 9904.405–40, add paragraph (g) to read as follows:

§ 9904.405–40 Fundamental requirement.

* * * * *

(g) Recission of CAS 404 and 409 as a result of CAS-to-GAAP conformance by the Board resulted in the following retained content related to asset accounting and depreciation: (1) When gains and losses are recognized on disposition of tangible capital assets, the gains or losses shall be considered as adjustments of depreciation costs previously recognized and shall be assigned to the cost accounting period in which disposition occurs. The gain to be recognized for contract costing purposes shall be limited to the difference between the original acquisition cost of the asset and its undepreciated balance.

(2) Gains and losses on disposition of tangible capital assets transferred in other than arm's-length transaction and subsequently disposed of within 12 months from the date of transfer shall be assigned to the transferor.

(3) The capitalized values of tangible capital assets acquired in a business combination shall be assigned to these assets as follows: All the tangible capital assets of the acquired company that during the most recent cost accounting period prior to a business combination generated either depreciation expense or cost of money charges that were allocated to Federal government contracts or subcontracts negotiated on the basis of cost, shall be capitalized by the buyer at the net book value(s) of the asset(s) as reported by the seller at the time of the transaction.

(4) The contracting parties may agree on the estimated service life of individual tangible capital assets where the unique purpose for which the equipment was acquired or other special circumstances warrant a shorter estimated service life and where the shorter life can be reasonably predicted.

Subpart 9904.408 [Removed and Reserved]

■ 6. Remove and reserve subpart 9904.408 consisting of *§§* 9904.408–20 through 9904.408–63.

Subpart 9904.409 [Removed and Reserved]

■ 7. Remove and reserve subpart 9904.409 consisting of *§§* 9904.409–20 through 9904.409–63.

Subpart 9904.411 [Removed and Reserved]

■ 8. Remove and reserve subpart 9904.411 consisting of *§§* 9904.411–20 through 9904.411–63.

[FR Doc. 2026–13764 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3110–01–P

Proposed Rules

Federal Register
Vol. 91, No. 129
Wednesday, July 8, 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 HOMELAND SECURITY

8 CFR Part 106

[CIS No. 2834–25; DHS Docket No. USCIS–2026–0265]

RIN 1615–AD08

Naturalization Application Fee Adjustments

Correction

In proposed rule 2026–12542 beginning on page 37500 in the issue of Tuesday, June 23, 2026 make the following correction:

On page 37547, in the first column, immediately preceding heading 3. USCIS Form N–400, the following entries should appear:

(4) Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract: Primary: Individuals or households. USCIS uses the data collected on this form to verify that the applicant is unable to pay for the immigration benefit being requested. USCIS will consider waiving a fee for an application or petition when the applicant or petitioner clearly demonstrates he or she is eligible based on 8 CFR 106.3. Form I–912 standardizes the collection and analysis of statements and supporting documentation provided by the applicant with the fee waiver request. Form I–912 also streamlines and expedites USCIS' approval or rejection of the fee waiver request by clearly laying out the most salient data and evidence necessary for the determination of inability to pay. Officers evaluate all information and evidence supplied in support of a fee waiver request when making a final determination. Each case is unique and is considered on its own merits. If the fee waiver is granted, the application will be processed. If the fee waiver is not granted, USCIS will notify the applicant and instruct him or her to file a new application with the appropriate fee.

(5) An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond: The estimated total number of respondents for the information collection Form N–336 (paper filed) is 3,788 and the estimated hour burden per response is 2.567 hours; the estimated total number of respondents for the information collection Form N–336 (online filed) is 1,263 and the estimated hour burden per response is 2.5 hours.

(6) An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection: The total estimated annual hour burden associated with this collection is 12,882 hours.

(7) An estimate of the total public burden (in cost) associated with the collection: The estimated total annual cost burden associated with this collection of information is $2,601,265.

[FR Doc. C1–2026–12542 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1505–01–D

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA–2025–5394; Project Identifier AD–2025–01194–R]

RIN 2120–AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Restricted Category Model CH–47D Helicopters

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM).

SUMMARY: The FAA is revising a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that would have applied to all restricted category Model CH–47D helicopters. This proposed action would revise the NPRM by expanding the required actions paragraph applicable to all right-hand (RH) forward transmission support beam fittings with any part number, narrowing the area of inspection, and increasing the reporting requirement compliance times. The FAA is proposing this airworthiness directive (AD) to address the unsafe condition on these products. Since these actions would impose an additional burden over those in the NPRM and to address some commenters' concerns, the agency is requesting comments on this SNPRM.

DATES: The FAA must receive comments on this SNPRM by August 24, 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–2025–5394; 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 SNPRM, any comments received, and other information. The street address for Docket Operations is listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Taffy Shenoy, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, CA 90712; phone: (206) 231–3559; email: *taffy.m.shenoy@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–2025–5394; Project Identifier AD–2025–01194–R'' 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 again revise the 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 SNPRM.

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 SNPRM 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 SNPRM, 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 SNPRM. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Taffy Shenoy, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, CA 90712. Any commentary that the FAA receives which is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

Background

The FAA issued an NPRM to amend 14 CFR part 39 by adding an AD that would have applied to all restricted category Model CH–47D helicopters. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on December 22, 2025 (90 FR 59764). The NPRM was prompted by reports of fatigue cracking of the RH forward transmission support beam fitting having part number 145S1838–1. In the NPRM, the FAA proposed to require repetitively inspecting the RH forward transmission support beam fitting for cracking, and depending on the results, repairing any crack(s) or replacing parts. In the NPRM, the FAA also proposed to require submitting data on any previous repairs and replaced fittings.

Actions Since the NPRM Was Issued

Since the FAA issued the NPRM, several comments have been received, and the FAA has determined to revise the NPRM by making the actions in paragraph (g) of this proposed AD applicable to all RH forward transmission support beam fittings with any part number, narrowing the area of inspection by defining the station range and butt-line location, and increasing the reporting requirement compliance time. Additionally, new information received during the comment period from a type certificate holder identified crack findings in fittings with part number 145S1838–6, further supporting the expansion of applicability to all part numbers. The comment disposition below explains and addresses these comments. Due to these comments and the FAA's response to the comments, the FAA determined some of the requests expanded the scope of the proposed AD. The FAA is proposing this AD to detect and address fatigue cracking of the RH forward transmission support beam fittings. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in crack propagation and lead to failure of the RH forward transmission support beam fitting, excessive vibration, and loss of control of the helicopter.

Comments

The FAA received comments from seven commenters. The commenters were an anonymous individual; Billings Flying Service; Coulson Aviation; Design Analysis Certification Aerospace (DACA); PJ Helicopters, Inc.; Tandem Rotor, LLC; and Vertical Aviation International. The following discussion presents the comments received on the NPRM and the FAA's response to these comments. DACA also submitted additional comments that are not related to this proposed AD and did not suggest any changes. Vertical Aviation International supported the NPRM without change.

Requests To Withdraw the NPRM

An anonymous individual requested the FAA withdraw the NPRM because the aged airframe no longer requires further restrictions.

Billings Flying Service requested the FAA withdraw the NPRM because the existing maintenance program and repair infrastructure for these restricted category aircraft have been shown to find and address the cracks.

Billings Flying Service and Tandem Rotor, LLC requested the FAA withdraw the NPRM due to the lack of relevant technical data and that no data has been shown detailing this is a frequently occurring unsafe condition rather than limited infrequent repairs, nor is data present confirming the contributing factors.

DACA requested the FAA withdraw the NPRM and not issue an AD until ''certification bodies'' accept a long overdue aircraft level master data list (MDL) and its supporting analysis dataset into the restricted category type certificate (RCTC) qualifying program through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with each of the RCTC holders. DACA stated that operators and RCTC holders should voluntarily shorten their inspection intervals through service material. DACA also requested the FAA delay final rulemaking to allow RCTC holders to further investigate the potential root cause for the cracking of the RH forward transmission support beam fitting.

The FAA disagrees with the requests to withdraw the NPRM. The FAA has received data supporting its determination that an unsafe condition exists with the specified parts. Additionally, the FAA cannot rely on owners or operators voluntarily adopting certain manuals or shortening their inspection intervals. Although existing maintenance programs can possibly address cracks, the FAA finds that sufficient data exists to support the requirements of this proposed AD. This proposed AD has not been changed regarding these requests.

Requests for Documentation To Be Posted in the Docket

Billings Flying Service and Tandem Rotor, LLC requested the FAA provide all relevant technical data, reports of fatigue cracking, records of ex-parte contacts, decisions or reports that led to the need for this rulemaking, the substantiation of the required 100-hour inspection interval time, and corrective action determinations, to be posted in the AD docket. Billings Flying Service stated there is no evidence of the agency's analysis to determine whether the condition was caused by design miscalculations, manufacturing anomalies, the operational environment, maintenance findings, or maintenance activities. Additionally, Billings Flying Service and Tandem Rotor, LLC stated that without basic safety data uploaded in the AD docket, the NPRM lacks a record of the facts supporting its conclusion and thus fails to provide a reasonable basis for the proposed rule.

Billings Flying Service requested the Corrective Action Review Board (CARB) report that supported the 100-hour time-in-service (TIS) repetitive inspection requirement be posted in the docket as evidence of the need for rulemaking.

The FAA disagrees with posting decision-making documents in the AD docket. The FAA has obtained operator information indicating that mandatory action is necessary to maintain the continued operational safety of all helicopters of this type design. Furthermore, the FAA does not post pre-decisional documents in the AD docket for public view. Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, these materials are not releasable because they are pre-decisional and often contain information that is proprietary to the design approval holder. Additionally,

no ex-parte records exist for this proposed AD at the time of publication of this SNPRM. This proposed AD has not been changed regarding these requests.

Requests To Remove or Revise the Reporting Requirements

Billings Flying Service, Tandem Rotor, LLC, and PJ Helicopters, Inc. requested the FAA remove or revise the reporting requirement as it will place an undue burden on operators. Billings Flying Service, Tandem Rotor, LLC, and PJ Helicopters, Inc., all stated that data related to previous repairs and replacement fittings are mixed between civilian and military environments and have different reporting requirements, and the TIS of these used parts have no requirement to be time-tracked per military manuals or FAA approved type certificate (TC) instructions for continued airworthiness (ICAs).

Billings Flying Service and Tandem Rotor, LLC requested the FAA revise and condense paragraphs (g)(3)(i) and (ii) of the proposed AD to remove the 30-day requirement and add ''If a fitting was replaced, submit information regarding its sourcing (if available) to include but not limited to: Seller, Production Date, Producer and/or manufacturer.'' They further stated that the applicable part is not life-limited, and the serial number (if the part has one) and life status were not required to be recorded, therefore the TIS will not be readily available. Billings Flying Service and Tandem Rotor, LLC also stated that requiring operators to submit this sourcing information would be outside the regulations of 14 CFR.

Additionally, Billings Flying Service and Tandem Rotor, LLC requested the FAA remove paragraph (g)(2) of the proposed AD, because for repairs that were accomplished prior to civilian certification, obtaining the data requested from the appropriate military branch within the stated timeline is likely to put the operator at an unnecessary compliance risk. Additionally, they stated that militaries have no requirement on response times, or requirement to respond at all to civilian operators, and this requirement could cause grounding aircraft in order to comply with this research request. The commenters also stated that the part is not life-limited, the serial number (if the part has one) and life status were not required to be recorded, therefore the TIS will not be readily available. Research to obtain the information would take hours and more than likely be unsuccessful in fulfilling the requirements of the proposed rule.

The FAA disagrees with removing the reporting requirements in paragraphs (g)(2) or (3) of the proposed AD. The FAA also disagrees with condensing paragraphs (g)(3)(i) and (ii) of the proposed AD into one paragraph. The purpose of the reporting requirement is for the FAA to recognize if any repairs have failed and if the existing repairs provide an acceptable level of safety. The affected part TIS is the same as the airframe, since the part is not rotable. The time of removal of the used part should be recorded in maintenance records. If operators have difficulty providing military Form 2408–15, then they are able to apply for an alternative method of compliance (AMOC) in accordance with the provisions provided in paragraph (i) of the proposed AD.

The FAA agrees with revising paragraph (g)(3)(ii) of this proposed AD by modifying the requirement to say ''Donor Part Seller, Donor Part Production Date, Donor Part Producer and/or Donor Part Manufacturer,'' in order to be more specific about the source. Even though the FAA disagrees with removing or combining the reporting paragraphs, the FAA has determined that an additional 30 days to report allows applicants, operators, and TC holders additional time to gather the required information. The required actions section of this proposed AD has been revised accordingly to allow 60 days for reporting.

Request To Revise the Applicability Paragraph

Billings Flying Service requested the FAA revise the Applicability paragraph of the NPRM, stating that the effectivity should be based on the known configuration that is proposed to be affected, specifically to part number 145S1838–1.

The FAA disagrees with adding the part number to the applicability section because the part number for the installed fitting may vary by the dash number and some parts may not be labeled with the part number. Furthermore, the FAA does not know of any specific part number that is not susceptible to the subject cracking. This proposed AD has not been changed regarding this request.

Request To Revise or Remove the Inspection Interval

Billings Flying Service and Tandem Rotor, LLC requested the FAA revise the 100-hour TIS repetitive inspection interval because the FAA has not provided data or a summary of why the repetitive inspection interval of 100 hours is appropriate. Billings Flying Service stated an arbitrary 100-hour TIS repetitive inspection requirement burdens operators and requested further information on why the inspection interval could not be substantiated at 400 hours TIS or 800 hours TIS. Additionally, Billings Flying Service stated that if the FAA has substantiating data that there is fatigue cracking, the initial 30-hour TIS inspection is likely appropriate based upon that data.

The FAA disagrees with the request to revise or remove the inspection interval. The FAA determined that the repetitive 100-hour TIS interval is necessary to allow for sufficient opportunity to detect a crack prior to failure without requiring specialized equipment and technicians while aligning with already prescribed maintenance tasks. This proposed AD has not been changed regarding this request.

Request To Revise the Initial Inspection Compliance Time

Coulson Aviation requested the FAA revise the compliance time for the initial inspection from 30 hours TIS to 100 hours TIS after the effective date of the proposed AD. The commenter stated an initial 30-hour TIS inspection may be unnecessarily restrictive and may not provide a safety benefit when combined with the repetitive 100-hour TIS inspection requirement.

The FAA disagrees with the request. In developing an appropriate compliance time, the FAA considered the safety implications, parts availability, and normal maintenance schedules for timely accomplishment of the required inspection. If additional data are presented that would justify a longer compliance time than the required 30 hours, the FAA may consider further rulemaking on this issue. The proposed AD has not been changed regarding this request.

Request To Clarify the Inspection Area in the Required Actions Paragraph

Billings Flying Service stated that if the reported cracks are exclusively found to be in the forward area on the inboard face of the mount (''area of interest''), then the inspection should be conducted and specified where the damage has been found. The commenter further stated requiring full open-up and complete mount inspection every 100 hours TIS would be a significant burden to the operator, and complete access to the installed part would require significant additional maintenance.

The FAA acknowledges the commenter's concern and infers that the commenter is requesting that the inspection area be clarified. The FAA agrees to clarify the inspection area in

order to provide a boundary area. Paragraph (g)(1) of the Required Actions paragraph of this proposed AD has been revised by adding, ''and from the top cap to lower termination of the fitting for cracks'' when describing the area of inspection.

Request To Revise the Inspection Method To Require an Eddy Current Inspection

Coulson Aviation requested that the FAA revise paragraph (g)(1) of the Required Actions paragraph of the proposed AD to require an eddy current inspection in lieu of or in addition to the visual inspection. The commenter stated that they have identified four cracked transmission beams on seven airframes and only two of these cracks were visible per the visual inspection criteria noted in the proposed AD, but all four were identified clearly via eddy current inspection. The commenter also stated that relying solely on a visual inspection may not be reliable to detect subsurface or early-stage cracking within the fitting. Furthermore, the commenter stated that without a detailed inspection method such as an eddy current inspection, the safety margin of CH–47D operations is significantly degraded.

The FAA acknowledges that operators can choose to use eddy current in addition to the required detailed visual inspection or request an AMOC to use eddy current inspections instead of a detailed visual inspection. The FAA disagrees with requiring an eddy current inspection in lieu of a detailed visual inspection because a detailed visual inspection at the 100-hour TIS interval allows for sufficient opportunity to detect a crack prior to failure without requiring specialized equipment and technicians while aligning with already prescribed maintenance tasks. This proposed AD has not been changed regarding this request.

Request To Revise the Costs of Compliance Paragraph

Billings Flying Service stated the hour estimates as stated in the proposed rule would not allow for the additional required structure to be open to allow full access. The commenter also stated that the information required for reporting on previous repairs and replaced fittings is more extensive than the time estimated in the cost of compliance. The commenter further stated that it is not realistic to assume that operators can review the entirety of an aircraft's records in an hour because this data is not easily accessible and the records will range from paper documents to modern maintenance recordkeeping systems, resulting in extensive operational and maintenance data that would need to be combed through and analyzed.

The FAA agrees and has revised the cost estimate for reporting in the Costs of Compliance paragraph of this proposed AD from one hour to five hours.

Request To Revise the Special Flight Permit Paragraph

Coulson Aviation requested the FAA revise paragraph (h) of the proposed AD to allow special flight permits for the purpose of relocating the aircraft to a facility capable of performing the required repair. The commenter stated that if replacement of the fitting is necessary, the repair will require substantial infrastructure, tooling, and manpower that may not be available at the aircraft's current location. Additionally, the commenter stated that prohibiting ferry flights may unnecessarily ground aircraft in locations not suitable for corrective maintenance.

The FAA partially agrees. The FAA disagrees with allowing special flight permits without restriction. However, the FAA agrees that special flight permits may be requested through the AMOC process. Accordingly, paragraph (h) of this proposed AD has been revised to state, ''Special flight permits, as described in 14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199, are not allowed unless approved in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (i)(1) of this AD.''

FAA's Determination

The FAA is proposing this AD after determining the unsafe condition described previously is likely to exist or develop in other products of the same type design. Certain changes described above expand the scope of the NPRM. As a result, it is necessary to reopen the comment period to provide additional opportunity for the public to comment on this SNPRM.

Proposed AD Requirements in This SNPRM

This proposed AD would require repetitively inspecting the RH forward transmission support beam fitting for cracking, and depending on the results, repairing any crack(s) or replacing parts. This proposed AD would also require submitting data on any previous repairs and replaced fittings to the FAA.

Costs of Compliance

The FAA estimates that this AD, if adopted as proposed, would affect 42 helicopters 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
Inspect RH forward transmission support beam fitting.	2 work-hours × $85 per hour = $170	$0	$170	$7,140
Report previous repairs and replaced fittings.	5 work-hours × $85 per hour = $425	0	425	17,850

The FAA has received no definitive data on which to base the cost estimates for the on-condition repairs specified in this proposed AD.

Paperwork Reduction Act

A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2120–0056. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be approximately 5 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are mandatory. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Information Collection Clearance Officer, Federal Aviation Administration, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, TX 76177–1524.

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:

Restricted Category Model CH–47D Helicopters: Docket No. FAA–2025–5394; Project Identifier AD–2025–01194–R.

(a) Comments Due Date

The FAA must receive comments on this airworthiness directive (AD) by August 24, 2026.

(b) Affected ADs

None.

(c) Applicability

This AD applies to restricted category Model CH–47D helicopters; current type certificate holders include but are not limited to Billings Flying Service, Inc.; Columbia Helicopters, Inc.; Tandem Rotor, LLC; and Unical Air Inc.

(d) Subject

Joint Aircraft System Component (JASC) Code 6330, Main rotor transmission mount.

(e) Unsafe Condition

This AD was prompted by reports of fatigue cracking of the right-hand (RH) forward transmission support beam fittings. The FAA is issuing this AD to detect and address fatigue cracking of the RH forward transmission support beam fittings. The unsafe condition, if not addressed, could result in crack propagation and lead to failure of the RH forward transmission support beam fittings, excessive vibration, and loss of control of the helicopter.

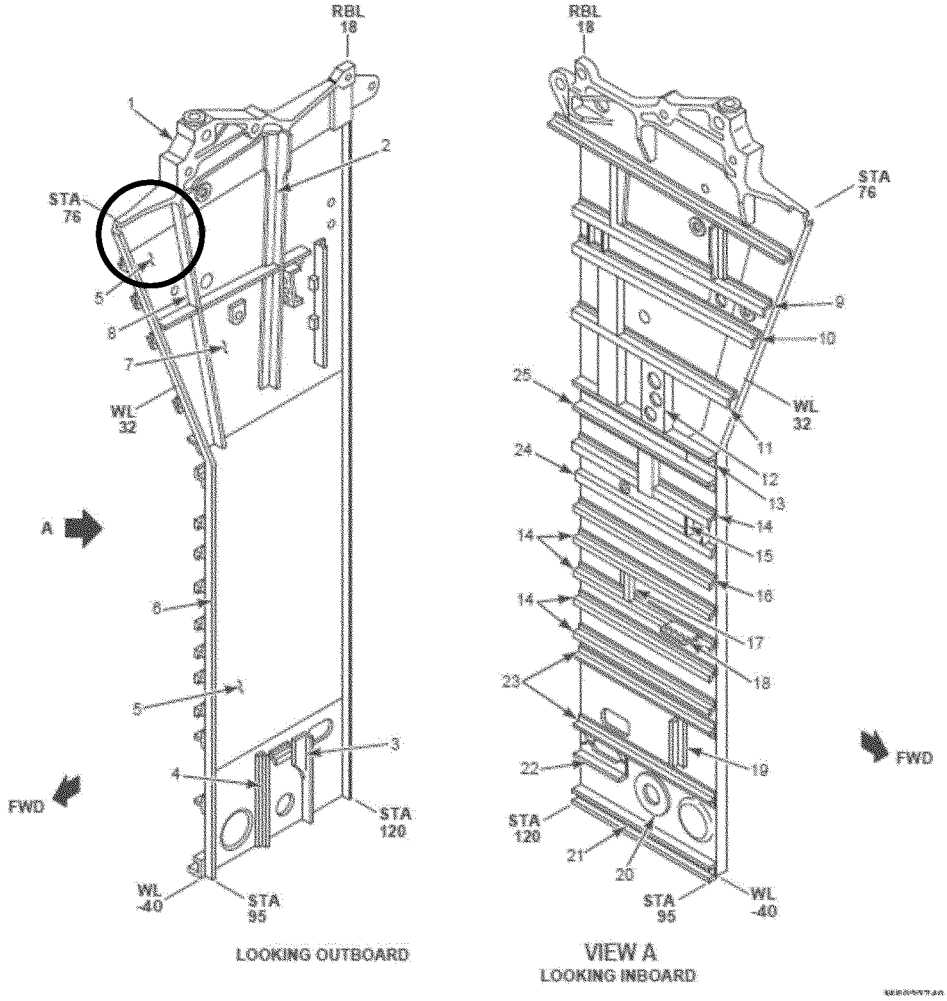
(f) Compliance

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

(g) Required Actions

(1) Within 30 hours time in service (TIS) after the effective date of this AD and thereafter at intervals not to exceed 100 hours TIS, using a 7X or higher power magnification and light source, visually inspect the RH forward transmission support beam fitting, any part number, at right butt line (RBL) 18 from station (STA) 76 to STA 95, and from the top cap to lower termination of the fitting for cracks. Fastener holes in the area circled in figure 1 to paragraph (g)(1) of this AD are most susceptible to cracking. If any crack is detected, before further flight, repair or replace parts using a method approved by the Manager, West Certification Branch, FAA, in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (i) of this AD.

Figure 1 to Paragraph (g)(1)—Transmission Support Beam Inspection



(2) For repairs accomplished before the effective date of this AD, within 60 days after the effective date of this AD, submit the information specified in paragraphs (g)(2)(i) through (v) of this AD to the person identified in paragraph (j) of this AD.

(i) Aircraft serial number, registration number, and TIS when fitting was repaired.

(ii) Design data used to accomplish repair (drawings, engineering orders, etc.).

(iii) Substantiation data used to approve repair.

(iv) Copy of FAA Form 337 ''Major Repair or Alteration'' or other approval of return to service. If repair was performed by the U.S. military, provide a copy of Form 2408–15 (or equivalent) documenting major repair.

(v) Alternative methods of compliance for previously approved repairs.

(3) For fittings that have been replaced before the effective date of this AD, within 60 days after the effective date of this AD, submit the information specified in paragraphs (g)(3)(i) and (ii) of this AD to the person identified in paragraph (j) of this AD.

(i) If the replacement fitting was new production (under 14 CFR 21.9 or exemption): submit information to include but not limited to: where the part was sourced from, when the part was produced, and the manufacturer of the part.

(ii) If a fitting was replaced with a used part, submit information regarding its sourcing to include but not limited to: Donor Part Seller, Donor Part Production Date, Donor Part Producer, and/or Donor Part Manufacturer, TIS of the used part prior to installation, and TIS after installation.

(h) Special Flight Permits

Special flight permits, as described in 14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199, are not allowed unless approved in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (i)(1) of this AD.

(i) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(1) The Manager, West Certification 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 West Certification 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 Taffy Shenoy, Aviation Safety Engineer, FAA, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, CA 90712; phone: (206) 231–3559; email: *taffy.m.shenoy@faa.gov*.

(k) Material Incorporated by Reference

None.

Issued on July 2, 2026.

Christopher R. Parker,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–13781 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

21 CFR Part 1308

[Docket No. DEA1596]

Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Tianeptine in Schedule I

AGENCY: Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Drug Enforcement Administration proposes placing the substance tianeptine (7-[(3-chloro-6,11-dihydro-6-methyl-5,5-dioxidodibenzo[*c,f*][1,2]thiazepin-11-yl)amino]heptanoic acid), including its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers whenever the existence of such isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers is possible, in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. If finalized, this action would impose 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 with, or possess) or propose to handle tianeptine.

DATES: Comments must be submitted electronically or postmarked on or before August 7, 2026. The electronic Federal Docket Management System will not accept comments after 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the last day of the comment period.

Interested persons may file a request for a hearing or waiver of hearing pursuant to 21 CFR 1308.44 and in accordance with 21 CFR 1316.47 and/or 1316.49, as applicable. Requests for a hearing and waivers of an opportunity for a hearing or to participate in a hearing, together with a written statement of position on the matters of fact and law asserted in the hearing, must be received or postmarked on or before August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may file written comments on this proposal in accordance with 21 CFR 1308.43(g). To ensure proper handling of comments, please reference ''Docket No. DEA1596'' on all electronic and written correspondence, including any attachments.

• *Electronic comments:* The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) encourages commenters to submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal, which provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on the web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Please go to *www.regulations.gov* and follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments. Upon completion of your submission, you will receive a Comment Tracking Number. Submitted comments are not instantaneously available for public view on *www.regulations.gov.* If you have received a Comment Tracking Number, your comment has been successfully submitted and there is no need to resubmit the same comment. Commenters should be aware that the electronic Federal Docket Management System will not accept comments after 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the last day of the comment period.

• *Paper comments:* Paper comments that duplicate the electronic submissions are not necessary and are discouraged. Should you wish to mail a paper comment in lieu of an electronic comment, it should be sent via regular or express mail to: Drug Enforcement Administration, Attn: DEA Federal Register Representative/DPW, 8701 Morrissette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152.

• *Hearing requests:* All requests for a hearing and waivers of participation, together with a written statement of position on the matters of fact and law asserted in the hearing, must be filed with the DEA Administrator, who will make the determination of whether a hearing will be needed to address such matters of fact and law in the rulemaking. Such requests must be sent to: Drug Enforcement Administration, Attn: Administrator, 8701 Morrissette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152. For informational purposes, a courtesy copy of requests for hearing and waivers of participation should also be sent to: (1) Drug Enforcement Administration, Attn: Hearing Clerk/OALJ, 8701 Morrissette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152; and (2) Drug Enforcement Administration, Attn: DEA Federal Register Representative/DPW, 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; Telephone: (571) 362–3249.

As required by 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(4), a summary of this proposed rule may be found in the docket for this rulemaking at *www.regulations.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) proposes placing the substance tianeptine (7-[(3-chloro-6,11-dihydro-6-methyl-5,5-dioxidodibenzo[*c,f*][1,2]thiazepin-11-yl)amino]heptanoic acid) in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), including its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers whenever the existence of such isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers is possible within the specific chemical designation.

Posting of Public Comments

All comments received in response to this docket are considered part of the public record. DEA will make comments available for public inspection online at *http://www.regulations.gov,* unless reasonable cause is given. Such information includes personal or business identifiers (such as name, address, state of federal identifiers, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter.

Commenters submitting comments which include personal identifying information (PII), confidential, or proprietary business information that the commenter does not want to be made publicly available should submit two copies of the comment. One copy must be marked ''CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION'' and should clearly identify all PII or business information the commenter does not want to be made publicly available, including any supplemental materials. DEA will review this copy, including the claimed PII and confidential business information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy should be marked ''TO BE PUBLICLY POSTED'' and must have all claimed confidential PII and business information already redacted. DEA will post only the redacted comment on *http://www.regulations.gov* for public inspection. DEA generally will not redact additional information contained in the comment marked ''TO BE PUBLICLY POSTED.'' The Freedom of Information Act applies to all comments received.

For easy reference, an electronic copy of this document and supplemental information to this proposed scheduling action are available at *http://www.regulations.gov.*

Request for Hearing or Appearance; Waiver

Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(a), this action is a formal rulemaking ''on the record after opportunity for a hearing.'' Such proceedings are conducted pursuant to the provisions of the

Administrative Procedure Act (APA).[1] Interested persons, as defined in 21 CFR 1300.01(b), may file requests for a hearing in conformity with the requirements of 21 CFR 1308.44(a) and 1316.47(a), and such requests must:

(1) state with particularity the interest of the person in the proceeding;

(2) state with particularity the objections or issues concerning which the person desires to be heard; and

(3) state briefly the position of the person regarding the objections or issues.

Any interested person may file a waiver of an opportunity for a hearing or to participate in a hearing in conformity with the requirements of 21 CFR 1308.44(c), together with a written statement of position on the matters of fact and law involved in any hearing.[2]

All requests for a hearing and waivers of participation, together with a written statement of position on the matters of fact and law involved in such hearing, must be sent to DEA using the address information provided above. The decision whether a hearing will be needed to address such matters of fact and law in the rulemaking will be made by the Administrator. If a hearing is needed, DEA will publish a notice of hearing on the proposed rulemaking in the **Federal Register**.[3] Further, once the Administrator determines a hearing is needed to address such matters of fact and law in rulemaking, he will then designate an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to preside over the hearing. The ALJ's functions shall commence upon designation, as provided in 21 CFR 1316.52.

In accordance with 21 U.S.C. 811 and 812, the purpose of a hearing would be to determine whether tianeptine meets the statutory criteria for placement in schedule I, as proposed in this rulemaking.

Legal Authority

The CSA provides that proceedings for the issuance, amendment, or repeal of the scheduling of any drug or other substance may be initiated by the Attorney General (delegated to the Administrator of DEA pursuant to 28 CFR 0.100) on her own motion, at the request of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), or on the petition of an interested party.[4] This proposed action is initiated on the Administrator's own motion and supported by, *inter alia,* a recommendation from the then-Assistant Secretary for Health (Assistant Secretary) of HHS and an evaluation of all other relevant data by DEA. If finalized, this action would impose the regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions applicable to schedule I controlled substances on any person who handles or proposes to handle tianeptine.

Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(a)(1), the Attorney General (as delegated to the Administrator of DEA) may, by rule, and upon the recommendation of the Secretary, add to such a schedule or transfer between such schedules any drug or other substance, if she finds that such drug or other substance has a potential for abuse, and makes with respect to such drug or other substance the findings prescribed by 21 U.S.C. 812(b) for the schedule in which such drug or other substance is to be placed.

Background

Tianeptine is structurally and pharmacologically referred to as a tricyclic antidepressant. However, recent case reports have described the use of tianeptine for its euphoric properties similar to other opioids, such as heroin, morphine, and fentanyl. Severe adverse health effects, including respiratory depression, severe sedation, and death, have occurred from the misuse of tianeptine. The use of tianeptine by both current opioid abusers and opioid-naïve individuals poses a hazard to public safety. There are no tianeptine products approved for medical use in the United States.

Proposed Determination To Schedule Tianeptine

Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(b), DEA gathered the necessary data on tianeptine and, on September 7, 2023, submitted it to the then-Assistant Secretary for Health of HHS with a request for a scientific and medical evaluation of available information and a scheduling recommendation for tianeptine.

On July 18, 2025, HHS provided DEA a scientific and medical evaluation entitled, ''Basis for the Recommendation to Place Tianeptine and its salts in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act,'' and a scheduling recommendation. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(b), following consideration of the eight factors and findings related to the substance's abuse potential, legitimate medical use, and safety or dependence liability, HHS recommended that tianeptine be controlled in schedule I of the CSA under 21 U.S.C. 812(b). HHS noted that tianeptine is a tricyclic antidepressant that has been shown to have pharmacological effects similar to opioids currently scheduled under the CSA, such as morphine (schedule II) and fentanyl (schedule II). Although tianeptine is approved for medical use in European, Asian, and Latin American countries as a prescribed drug typically used for depression, there are no tianeptine products approved for medical use in the United States. HHS detailed that health care practitioners and medical examiners have reported cases of severe adverse events and even death involving the ingestion of tianeptine.

In response, DEA reviewed the scientific and medical evaluation and scheduling recommendation provided by HHS, and all other relevant data, and conducted its own eight-factor analysis in accordance with 21 U.S.C. 811(c). Included below is a brief summary of each factor as analyzed by HHS and DEA in their respective eight-factor analyses, and as considered by DEA in this proposed scheduling determination. Please note that both the DEA and HHS analyses, including the evaluation of the eight factors determinative of control along with their supporting data and citations, are available in their entirety under the tab ''Supporting Documents'' of the public docket of this proposed rule at *https://www.regulations.gov,* under docket number DEA1596.

1. Its Actual or Relative Potential for Abuse

In addition to considering the information HHS provided in its scientific and medical evaluation document for tianeptine, DEA also considered all other relevant data regarding actual or relative potential for abuse of tianeptine. The term ''abuse'' is not defined in the CSA; however, the legislative history of the CSA suggests considering the following four prongs in determining whether a particular drug or substances has a potential for abuse: [5]

a. There is evidence that individuals are taking the drug or drugs containing such a substance in amounts sufficient to create a hazard to their health or to the safety of other individuals or of the community; or

b. There is significant diversion of the drug or substance from legitimate drug channels; or

c. Individuals are taking the drug or drugs containing such a substance on their own initiative rather than on the basis of medical advice from a practitioner licensed by law to

[1] 5 U.S.C. 551–559; 21 CFR 1308.41–1308.45; 21 CFR part 1316, subpart D.

[2] 21 CFR 1316.49.

[3] 21 CFR 1308.44(b), 1316.53.

[4] 21 U.S.C. 811(a).

[5] Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970, H.R. Rep. No. 91–1444, 91st Cong., Sess. 1 (1970); reprinted in 1970 U.S.C.C.A.N. 4566, 4603.

administer such drugs in the course of his professional practice; or

d. The drug or drugs containing such a substance are new drugs so related in their action to a drug or drugs already listed as having a potential for abuse to make it likely that the drug will have the same potentiality for abuse as such drugs, thus making it reasonable to assume that there may be significant diversions from legitimate channels, significant use contrary to or without medical advice, or that it has a substantial capability of creating hazards to the health of the user or to the safety of the community.

Both the DEA and HHS eight-factor analyses found that tianeptine produces pharmacological effects that are similar to those produced by schedule II opioids, including morphine and fentanyl. The abuse of tianeptine has been shown to result in respiratory depression, seizures, opioid withdrawal symptoms, and death. While recommended therapeutic dosing of tianeptine in countries where it is legal is 12.5 milligrams (mg) three times per day, recent alerts from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have reported that labels on products sold within the United States indicate that some products contain large amounts of tianeptine ranging from hundreds to over 1,000 mg per dosage unit. In a recent alert, FDA cited multiple case reports in the medical literature that describe United States consumers ingesting daily doses on the order of 1.3 to 250 times (50 mg to 10,000 mg) the daily tianeptine dose typically recommended in labeled foreign drug products.[6]

Since tianeptine is not an FDA-approved product, there are no legitimate drug channels for this substance as a marketed drug in the United States. With no legitimate sources for tianeptine within the United States outside of legitimate chemical manufacturers for research purposes, and HHS' indication that tianeptine is not an FDA-approved product for treatment within the United States, tianeptine use is resultant of users purchasing this product from illegitimate sources.

There are numerous case reports detailing serious adverse reactions, including death, following the use of tianeptine. Individuals are using tianeptine in a manner similar to other opioids, such as heroin, morphine, or fentanyl, to achieve a euphoric state. Scientific reports have detailed escalating use of tianeptine in supratherapeutic doses that have shown to be deleterious to the user's health. Serious withdrawal symptoms following tianeptine abuse have been reported. Tianeptine abuse is associated with psychological and physical dependence. HHS also noted that naloxone administration has been shown in some cases to reverse tianeptine overdose, which supports that tianeptine effects are mediated, at least in part, through its mu opioid agonist activity.

Amidst the current opioid epidemic, users are constantly searching out new substances, with often similar or increased danger to the user, to feed their addiction. In addition, some users have attempted to self-medicate using online drugs such as tianeptine, marketed as ''addiction remedies.'' While some users seek out substances to curb withdrawal symptoms from other opioids, select individuals try new substances to gain a novel high from the substance or to evade drug tests that more commonly known substances trigger.

In agreement with HHS, DEA believes that, taken together, subsections (a) through (d) of Factor 1 indicate that tianeptine has a relative potential for abuse that is similar to other opioid agonists controlled under the CSA, such as morphine (schedule II) and fentanyl (schedule II).

2. Scientific Evidence of the Drug's Pharmacological Effects, if Known

As explained in the eight-factor analyses by HHS and DEA, the available pharmacology data indicate that tianeptine exerts its mechanism of action via activation of select opioid receptors. Various studies using animal models demonstrated that tianeptine administration, similar to morphine, results in mu-opioid agonist effects. While animal studies initially reported that tianeptine administered systemically increases respiratory output and prevents morphine-induced respiratory depression in rats without affecting its analgesic effects, clinical effects in humans produced analgesia and respiratory depression following the use of tianeptine. One possibility to explain these disparate findings in rat and human respiratory effects is that the effects of tianeptine are biphasic, in that at low doses, tianeptine can both increase respiration and/or prevent morphine-induced respiratory depression; however high doses, representative of a person abusing tianeptine, can result in respiratory depression similar to other opioids, such as morphine or fentanyl. In its review, HHS described the results of the drug discrimination assay following the administration of tianeptine. In these studies, rats were trained to discriminate the effects of the mu-opioid agonist morphine from saline. When the morphine-trained rats were challenged with tianeptine, full generalization to morphine occurred (*i.e.,* the rats could not differentiate between morphine and tianeptine). Thus, the drug discrimination data demonstrates that tianeptine has pharmacological properties that are similar to morphine, though with less potency. HHS noted that while clinical studies involving tianeptine administration in humans were reviewed, these studies utilized doses that are typically prescribed for use in other countries (*i.e.,* 37.5 mg per day) and are not reflective of doses seen in abuse-related case reports (*i.e.,* hundreds to thousands of milligrams per day). Therefore, due to the limitations of these clinical studies and the higher doses of tianeptine required to produce opioid-like activity, human abuse potential could not be evaluated from these clinical studies.

3. The State of Current Scientific Knowledge Regarding the Drug or Other Substance

HHS noted that tianeptine is rapidly absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract and has a high bioavailability of approximately 90 to 99 percent. Tianeptine is primarily metabolized in the liver, leading to two major metabolites—MC3 and MC5—with MC5 possessing agonist activity at the mu-opioid receptor. Tianeptine has a half-life of approximately 2.5 hours and is excreted mainly via the kidney. The MC5 metabolite has a longer half-life that can vary between 7.2 and 12.3 hours.

Tianeptine is not an FDA-approved drug in the United States, although it is approved in other countries. Because tianeptine is not FDA-approved, FDA considered both the DEA five-part test and the HHS two-part test to determine whether it has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.[7] Ultimately, FDA concluded that

[6] FDA, New ''Gas Station Heroin'' Tianeptine Product Trend (May 8, 2025), *available at https://www.fda.gov/consumers/health-fraud-scams/new-gas-station-heroin-tianeptine-product-trend.*

[7] Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 812(b)(1)(B), when placing a drug or other substance in schedule I, DEA must consider whether the substance has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. First, DEA looks to whether the drug or substance has FDA approval. When no FDA approval exists, DEA has traditionally applied a five-part test to determine whether a drug or substance 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

tianeptine did not satisfy the DEA five-part test for a currently accepted medical use for treatment in the United States.

FDA further noted that there were no implemented state-authorized programs for the medical use of tianeptine in any state or locality in the United States. Therefore, tianeptine does not satisfy the HHS two-part test for determining whether it has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.

In conclusion, tianeptine is not FDA-approved, does not meet each of the elements in the DEA five-part test, and does not satisfy the HHS two-part test. Therefore, FDA concluded that tianeptine does not have a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. Similarly, DEA concludes tianeptine has no currently accepted medical use according to established DEA procedure and case law.

4. Its History and Current Pattern of Abuse

Tianeptine was discovered in the 1960s and patented by the French Society for Medical Research. Tianeptine is currently marketed as a prescription antidepressant in other countries; however, it is not approved for medical use by the FDA within the United States. While still approved for use in various countries, tianeptine has been banned in several localities worldwide due to its opioid-like effects and high potential for misuse. Tianeptine has been banned or classified as a controlled substance in Italy (2020), Turkey (2012), Bahrain (2003), and Russia (2010). Within the United States, internet searches for tianeptine routinely return results for websites offering to sell tianeptine, in addition to various other synthetic drugs, including some schedule I substances. Websites offer language marketing the use of tianeptine as a mood enhancer and to aid in concentration, while suggesting it's safe to use via customer testimonials.

Law enforcement correspondence has reported that users administer tianeptine in a manner similar to heroin (*i.e.,* by injection or nasal insufflation), albeit more frequently due to its shorter duration of action. In addition, while previous studies in rodents failed to report withdrawal symptoms, severe withdrawal symptoms in humans resulting in hospitalization following the use of tianeptine have been reported. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), tianeptine is not routinely included in toxicological analysis, and specialized testing may be required to positively identify this substance. This need for specialized analyses may contribute to under reporting of harm and abuse.

Starting in November 2018, FDA issued its first of multiple notices to the public regarding the dangers of tianeptine. Due to various companies and websites selling tianeptine without any labeled warnings as a supplement to improve mental acuity; treat opioid use disorder, pain, and anxiety; or with no information indicating how or under which conditions to use the product, the FDA felt it was necessary to alert the public of the dangers of ingesting this substance. The full list of alerts can be found in the full eight-factor analysis at *https://www.regulations.gov,* under docket number ''DEA1596.''

5. The Scope, Duration, and Significance of Abuse

Amidst the current opioid epidemic, illicit manufacturers and drug traffickers continually look for additional opioid-like substances in order to sell them in the illicit drug market for abuse. Tianeptine is one such substance with opioid-like properties that is not currently controlled under the CSA. In August 2018, the CDC published an analysis of the tianeptine-related calls to the National Poison Data System (NPDS) [8] between 2000 and 2017. According to the CDC, tianeptine-related calls to the poison centers increased markedly from 2014 through 2017. During the first 14 years of the study period (2000–2013), NPDS reported a total of 11 tianeptine exposure calls, whereas 207 calls were reported from 2014 through 2017 (2014—5; 2015—38; 2016—83; 2017—81). This rapid and marked increase in calls to poison centers related to tianeptine is an extreme public health concern. The most commonly reported adverse effects among the 21 tianeptine withdrawal-associated calls consisted of: agitation (33.3 percent), nausea (33.3 percent), vomiting (19 percent), tachycardia (19.1 percent), hypertension (14.3 percent), diarrhea (9.5 percent), tremor (9.5 percent), and diaphoresis (9.5 percent). In addition, abrupt cessation of tianeptine may be difficult to tolerate, leading to potentially severe opioid-like withdrawal. In a follow-up study using NPDS data, tianeptine exposures reported to United States poison centers from 2015 to 2023 increased 1,400 percent from 2015 to 2023, including a 525 percent increase from 2018 to 2023. Most exposures were associated with moderate (51.5 percent) or major (12.0 percent) effects, and 40.1 percent required medical admission, including 22.9 percent to a critical care unit. They also noted that withdrawal accounted for 22.5 percent of tianeptine exposures reported to NPDS (*see* Factor 5 of eight-factor analysis on the docket).

Data collected by the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) reported 268 encounters of tianeptine between March 2017 and February 2026.[9] In one investigation, detectives seized multiple pieces of evidence indicating the presence of tianeptine. Items seized included bulk tianeptine powder (over 1.4 kg), a tableting machine, and over 900 counterfeit pills with various markings for both hydrocodone and oxycodone,

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 and HHS applied the traditional five-part test for currently accepted medical use in this matter. 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 practitioners 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' 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). In its eight-factor assessment, HHS determined that tianeptine does satisfy this two-part test. Therefore, because both DEA and HHS have determined that this substance does not satisfy the five-part test, and HHS has determined that this substance does not satisfy the additional two-part test, DEA concludes that tianeptine does not have a currently accepted medical use.

[8] NPDS is a national database of information provided by the country's regional poison centers serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The American Association of Poison Control Centers maintains the database. NPDS case records are the result of call reports made by members of the public or health care providers. *https://www.aapcc.org/data-system/.*

[9] NFLIS represents an important resource in monitoring illicit drug trafficking, including the diversion of legally manufactured pharmaceuticals into illegal markets. NFLIS-Drug is a comprehensive information system that includes data from forensic laboratories that handle more than 96 percent of an estimated 1 million distinct annual federal, state, and local drug analysis cases. NFLIS includes drug chemistry results from completed analyses only. While NFLIS data are not direct evidence of abuse, these can lead to an inference that a drug has been diverted and abused. *See Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Carisoprodol Into Schedule IV,* 76 FR 77330, 77332 (Dec. 12, 2011). NFLIS data were queried on February 26, 2026 (2025 and 2026 results still being reported).

found to contain the presence of tianeptine.

As noted in the HHS review, numerous states have controlled or otherwise banned the sale of tianeptine, including Alabama (2021), Arkansas (2022), Florida (2023), Georgia (2024), Indiana (2024), Kentucky (2023), Louisiana (2024), Maryland (2024), Michigan (2018), Minnesota (2023), Mississippi (2023), Ohio (2022), Oklahoma (2019), Tennessee (2022), and Virginia (2024). However, these bans do not prohibit individuals from crossing state lines to buy tianeptine and have not limited the sale and availability of tianeptine online.

Using a variety of databases, HHS found that more patients sought tianeptine for perceived therapeutic purposes than for recreation, with drug withdrawal and dependence being the most frequently reported adverse events. This included a therapeutic effect, such as pain relief, depression or anxiety, or self-detox from another substance, namely opioids. Of note, in the HHS review, the average self-reported maximum dose in one day in this case series was 1,013 mg, with the highest maximum daily reported dose of 63,720 mg in an FDA Adverse Event Reporting System report. This data supports the notion that tianeptine is being taken in significantly higher amounts than is prescribed in other countries for use as an antidepressant.

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

Available evidence on the overall public health risks associated with the use of tianeptine demonstrate serious health problems leading to emergency department admissions and death. As described in Factor 5, studies using data from the NDPS demonstrated a variety of severe adverse effects, including agitation, nausea/vomiting, and tachycardia, among many others. Data from overdose reports also demonstrates that tianeptine is being abused in combination with other substances. Case reports detailing serious adverse effects have been reported in the literature (*see* additional cases at *www.regulations.gov* contained within DEA's eight-factor analysis at docket DEA–1596). Some examples of the risk to public health include the following:

a. A 36-year-old male in Virginia intentionally injected intravenously (IV) tianeptine powder dissolved in water. He became unresponsive and a bystander called emergency medical services. He was administered naloxone 1 mg IV onsite before being transported to the emergency department. Upon arrival, he had excessive constriction of the pupils, sedation, and a respiratory rate of 6 respirations per minute. His toxicity was successfully reversed with two doses of naloxone 0.4 mg IV, and he was placed on naloxone infusion at 0.2 mg/hour. Urine toxicology results were negative for common drugs of abuse and tricyclic antidepressants but were positive for ethanol and tianeptine.

b. A 42-year-old male in New York displayed shallow and variable breathing and was unresponsive to attempts for arousal. He was administered 0.8 mg of naloxone in the ambulance leading to arousal and improved respiration. A second dose of naloxone resulted in improved alertness and spontaneous respirations. Toxicology was positive for tianeptine and alprazolam. He reported discovering tianeptine from internet blogs and was able to purchase it online. The patient noted that tianeptine induced euphoria and a ''sense of calm'' following ''one scoop'' of powder. He noted the effects were short lived and reported tolerance needing larger doses over time to achieve the same desired effects.

c. Two overdose death cases involving tianeptine were identified in Texas. A 28-year-old male with a history of illicit drug use was found dead on the floor of his locked residence. Autopsy findings included pulmonary edema, modest cardiomegaly, and urinary retention. Toxicology was positive for tianeptine and a presumptive positive for 7-aminoclonazolam. In a second unrelated case, a 30-year-old male was found dead in his secure residence. He had a history involving a head injury (9 years prior) and was being treated with alprazolam for anxiety and paranoia. The decedent had purchased tianeptine powder and needles for injection via the internet. Evidence of hypertensive cardiovascular disease, pulmonary edema, and pulmonary congestion were noted upon autopsy. Toxicology was positive for tianeptine and alprazolam.

d. A 49-year-old male in Pennsylvania was found deceased in his bedroom. A digital scale with a white powdery substance and other paraphernalia were located on the nightstand next to the bed. Following a full toxicology panel for the decedent, the coroner listed the cause of death as tianeptine toxicity.

The abuse of tianeptine, as demonstrated above, has resulted in severe adverse reactions to include respiratory depression, severe sedation, and death. Reversal of overdose toxicity of tianeptine by the opioid antagonist naloxone in multiple scenarios suggests the involvement of the opioid receptors' mechanisms in tianeptine toxicity.

7. Its Psychic or Physiological Dependence Liability

As described previously, tianeptine has a similar mechanism of action and adverse side effects to other mu-opioid agonists. In addition, cessation of tianeptine use can lead to withdrawal symptoms similar to other opioid-withdrawal effects. HHS described multiple cases in their review regarding both dependence and withdrawal following the use of tianeptine. A case report noted that tianeptine has been used to self-treat opioid withdrawal but can cause its own dependence and withdrawal with prolonged use. In addition, the case reports described earlier have also demonstrated withdrawal symptoms and tolerance associated with the abuse of tianeptine. In a review cited by HHS, study authors reviewed an additional 18 case reports from the scientific literature and concluded that, in addition to marked euphoria, withdrawal symptoms perpetuating further drug misuse were the most prominent phenomena associated with tianeptine abuse. The study authors also noted that the amount of tianeptine used exceeded the therapeutic dose in countries where it is legal by approximately 110-fold. Reports of numerous cases of tianeptine misuse or abuse showed withdrawal symptoms consisting of myalgia, chills, anxiety, excitability, nausea, vomiting, tremor, mood lability, insomnia, rhinorrhea, diarrhea, and cravings. An additional case described a patient with a two-week history of tianeptine use that reported taking 10 to 15 pills daily of an unspecified dosage and needing to take the drug at least every 4 to 6 hours to prevent the onset of symptoms of withdrawal. Collectively, these data demonstrate the similarity of tianeptine and both its mechanism of action and adverse side effects to other mu-opioid agonists, including the precipitation of withdrawal symptoms following the cessation of its use.

8. Whether the Substance Is an Immediate Precursor of a Substance Already Controlled Under This Subchapter

Tianeptine is not an immediate precursor of any substance controlled under the CSA, as defined in 21 U.S.C. 802(23).

Conclusion

After considering the scientific and medical evaluation conducted by HHS, the accompanying recommendation of HHS, and DEA's own eight-factor analysis, DEA finds that the facts and all relevant data constitute substantial

evidence of the potential for abuse of tianeptine. As such, DEA hereby proposes to permanently schedule tianeptine as a schedule I controlled substance under the CSA.

Proposed Determination of Appropriate Schedule

The CSA establishes five schedules of controlled substances known as schedules I, II, III, IV, and V. The CSA also outlines the findings required to place a drug or other substance in any particular schedule.[10] After consideration of the analysis and recommendation of the Assistant Secretary for Health of HHS and review of all other available data, the Administrator of DEA, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(a) and 812(b)(1), finds that:

1. Tianeptine Has a High Potential for Abuse

Tianeptine has been shown to be pharmacologically similar to other mu-opioid agonists, including morphine (schedule II) and fentanyl (schedule II). In addition, epidemiological data and case reports demonstrate that the adverse effect profile of tianeptine is similar to other opioids. Users are ingesting tianeptine in high dosages for its opioid effects, resulting in serious harm, including fatal overdoses both in combination with other opioids and with tianeptine alone. HHS has concluded that tianeptine has a high potential for abuse.

2. Tianeptine Has No Currently Accepted Medical Use in Treatment in the United States

According to HHS, FDA has not approved a marketing application for tianeptine for any therapeutic indication. In addition, there is a lack of support among medical experts in the United States and from clinical studies to consider tianeptine an acceptable medicine in the United States for any medical uses, nor are there any state-authorized programs that permit the medical use of tianeptine. For these reasons, FDA concluded that tianeptine has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.

3. There Is a Lack of Accepted Safety for Use of Tianeptine Under Medical Supervision

As stated by HHS, tianeptine has no approved medical use and has not been thoroughly investigated as a new drug in the United States. Therefore, the safety of tianeptine for use under medical supervision has not been determined. Thus, there is a lack of accepted safety for the use of tianeptine under medical supervision.

Based on these findings, the Administrator concludes that tianeptine (7-[(3-chloro-6,11-dihydro-6-methyl-5,5-dioxidodibenzo[*c,f*][1,2]thiazepin-11-yl)amino]heptanoic acid), including its isomers, esters, ethers, salts, and salts of isomers, esters, and ethers, warrants control in schedule I of the CSA. More precisely, because of its depressant-like effects, DEA is proposing to place tianeptine in 21 CFR 1308.11(b) (the opioids category of schedule I).

Requirements for Handling Tianeptine

If this rule is finalized as proposed, tianeptine would be subject to the CSA's schedule I regulatory controls and administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions applicable to the manufacture, distribution, reverse distribution, dispensing, import, export, engagement in research, conduct of instructional activities or chemical analysis with, and possession of schedule I controlled substances, including the following:

1. Registration. Any person who handles (manufactures, distributes, dispenses, imports, exports, engages in research, or conducts instructional activities or chemical analysis with, or possesses), or who desires to handle, tianeptine would need to 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.

Any person who currently handles tianeptine and is not registered with DEA to conduct research with a schedule I controlled substance must submit an application for registration and may not continue to handle tianeptine, unless DEA has approved that application for registration pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 822, 823, 957, 958, and in accordance with 21 CFR parts 1301 and 1312.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 822(h), if, on the date the final rule is effectuated, a person is conducting research on tianeptine and is already registered to conduct research with another controlled substance in schedule I, the person may continue to conduct research on tianeptine if they submit a completed application for registration or modification of existing registration, as applicable, to conduct research with tianeptine not later than 90 calendar days after the date of effectuation of the final rule. 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 tianeptine and may not receive or otherwise obtain additional tianeptine. 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 tianeptine, receipt of the copy by the manufacturer or distributor constitutes sufficient evidence that the person is authorized to receive tianeptine 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 tianeptine.

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

2. Disposal of Stocks. Any person unwilling or unable to obtain a schedule I registration must surrender or transfer all quantities of currently held tianeptine to a person registered with DEA before the effective date of the final scheduling action in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, local, and Tribal laws. Tianeptine must be disposed of in accordance with 21 CFR part 1317, in addition to all other applicable Federal, State, local, and Tribal laws.

3. Security. Tianeptine would be subject to schedule I security requirements and must be handled and stored pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 821, 823, and in accordance with 21 CFR 1301.71–1301.76. Non-practitioners handling tianeptine also would need to comply with the screening requirements of 21 CFR 1301.90–1301.93.

4. Labeling and Packaging. All labels and labeling for commercial containers of tianeptine would need to comply with 21 U.S.C. 825 and 958(e), and be in accordance with 21 CFR part 1302.

5. Quota. Generally, only registered manufacturers would be permitted to manufacture tianeptine in accordance with a quota assigned, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 826, and in accordance with 21 CFR part 1303.

[10] 21 U.S.C. 812(b).

6. Inventory. Every DEA registrant who would handle tianeptine must have an initial inventory of all stocks of controlled substances (including this substance) on hand on the date the registrant first engages in the handling of controlled substances pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 827 and 958, and in accordance with 21 CFR 1304.03, 1304.04, and 1304.11.

After the initial inventory, every DEA registrant would need to take a new inventory of all stocks of controlled substances (including tianeptine) on hand every two years pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 827 and 958(e), and in accordance with 21 CFR 1304.03, 1304.04, and 1304.11.

7. Records and Reports. Every DEA registrant would need to maintain records and submit reports with respect to tianeptine, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 827, 832(a), and 958(e), and in accordance with 21 CFR 1301.74 and 1301.76, and parts 1304, 1312, and 1317. Manufacturers and distributors would need to submit reports regarding tianeptine to the Automation of Reports and Consolidated Order System pursuant 21 U.S.C. 827, and in accordance with 21 CFR parts 1304 and 1312.

8. Order Forms. Every DEA registrant who distributes tianeptine would need to comply with the order form requirements, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 828 and 21 CFR part 1305.

9. Importation and Exportation. All importation and exportation of tianeptine would need to comply with 21 U.S.C. 952, 953, 957, and 958, and in accordance with 21 CFR part 1312.

10. Liability. Any activity involving tianeptine not authorized by, or in violation of, the CSA or its implementing regulations would be unlawful, and may subject the person to administrative, civil, and/or criminal sanctions.

Regulatory Analyses

Executive Orders 12866, 13563, 14192, and 14294

In accordance with 21 U.S.C. 811(a), this proposed scheduling action is subject to formal rulemaking procedures done ''on the record after opportunity for a hearing,'' which are conducted pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557. The CSA sets forth the criteria for scheduling a drug or other substance. Such actions are exempt from review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) pursuant to section 3(d)(1) of Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 and the principles reaffirmed in E.O. 13563. DEA scheduling actions are not subject to either E.O. 14192, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation, or E.O. 14294, Fighting Overcriminalization in Federal Regulations.

Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform

This proposed regulation meets the applicable standards set forth in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of E.O. 12988 to eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, minimize litigation, provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct, and promote simplification and burden reduction.

Executive Order 13132, Federalism

This proposed rulemaking does not have federalism implications warranting the application of E.O. 13132. The proposed rule does not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments

This proposed rule does not have Tribal implications warranting the application of E.O. 13175. It does not have substantial direct effects 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.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Administrator, in accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601–602, has reviewed this proposed rule and, by approving it, certifies that it will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

According to HHS, tianeptine has a high potential for abuse, has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and lacks accepted safety for use under medical supervision. There appear to be no legitimate sources for tianeptine as a marketed drug in the United States, but DEA notes that this substance is available for purchase from legitimate suppliers for scientific research. There is no evidence of significant diversion of tianeptine from legitimate suppliers. Therefore, DEA has concluded that this proposed rule, if finalized, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The entities affected by this proposed rule include the manufacturers, distributors, importers, exporters, and researchers of tianeptine. DEA determines the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industries that best represent these business activities. Table 1 lists the business activities and corresponding NAICS industries.[11]

TABLE 1—BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND CORRESPONDING NAICS INDUSTRIES

Business activity	NAICS code	NAICS industry description
Manufacturer	325412	Pharmaceutical Preparation Manufacturing.
Distributor, Importer, Exporter	424210	Drugs and Druggists' Sundries Merchant Wholesalers.
	424690	Other Chemical and Allied Products Merchant Wholesalers.
Researcher	541715	Research and Development in Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology).
	611310	Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools.

From Statistics of United States Businesses (SUSB) data, DEA determined the number of firms and small firms for each of the affected industries, and by comparing the number of affected small entities to the number of small entities for each industry, DEA determined whether a substantial number of small entities are affected in any of the industries. Table 2 lists the number of firms, small firms,

[11] Executive Office of the President Office of Management and Budget, North American Industry Classification System, United States, 2022, *https://www.census.gov/naics/reference_files_tools/2022_NAICS_Manual.pdf.* (Accessed 9/25/2025).

and percent small firms in each affected industry.

TABLE 2—PERCENT AFFECTED SMALL ENTITIES BY INDUSTRY

NAICS industry	Firms [12]	SBA size standard [13]	Small firms [14]	Percent of small entities (percent)
325412—Pharmaceutical Preparation Manufacturing	1,179	1,300 employees ...	1,099	93.2
424210—Drugs and Druggists' Sundries Merchant Wholesalers	7,012	250 employees	6,760	96.4
424690—Other Chemical and Allied Products Merchant Wholesalers	5,487	175 employees	5,197	94.7
541715—Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology).	10,042	1,000 employees ...	9,599	95.6
611310—Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools	2,494	$34.5 million	1,515	60.8

Based on the American Chemical Society's SciFinder database,[15] DEA identified 26 entities supplying tianeptine across the industries 325412, 424210, and 424690. However, one entity has already registered with DEA to handle controlled substances. Hence, DEA expects 25 of the entities in the 325412, 424210, and 424690 industries will be affected by this rule. Assuming that all affected suppliers were small entities and concentrated in the smallest NAICS industry, 325412—Pharmaceutical Preparation Manufacturing, they would account for insubstantial number of small entities in that industry, 2.27 percent.[16]

Additionally, DEA expects that the number of researchers working with tianeptine is small, because tianeptine is not approved for medical use and has a substantial capability to be a hazard to the health of the user and to the safety of the community. Also, DEA believes that the researchers working with tianeptine may also work with other controlled substances; hence, these researchers are likely already registered with DEA and are qualified to handle controlled substances. For these reasons, DEA believes the number of affected researchers that are small entities is not a substantial number of small entities in 541715 and 611310 industries.

In summary, the small entities affected by this proposed rule are those in 325412—Pharmaceutical Preparation Manufacturing, 424210—Drugs and Druggists' Sundries Merchant Wholesalers, and 424690—Other Chemical and Allied Products Merchant Wholesalers. The affected small entities account for less than 2.27 percent of the small businesses and are not likely to manufacture or carry inventory of tianeptine. As such, the proposed rule, if finalized, is not expected to result in a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

In accordance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) of 1995, 2 U.S.C. 1532, DEA has determined and certifies that this action would not result in any Federal mandate that may result ''in the expenditure by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of $100,000,000 or more (adjusted annually for inflation) in any 1 year . . . .'' Therefore, neither a Small Government Agency Plan nor any other action is required under UMRA of 1995.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This proposed rule would require compliance with the following existing OMB collections: 1117–0003, 1117–0004, 1117–0006, 1117–0008, 1117–0009, 1117–0010, 1117–0012, 1117–0014, 1117–0021, and 1117–0056. 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.

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 proposes to amend 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:

■ a. Add new paragraph (b)(117);

■ b. Redesignate paragraphs (b)(117) through (121) as (b)(118) through (122);

§ 1308.11 Schedule I.

* * * * *

(d) * * *

*	*	*	*	*	*	*
(117) Tianeptine (other name: 7-[(3-chloro-6,11-dihydro-6-methyl-5,5-dioxidodibenzo[c,f][1,2]thiazepin-11-yl)amino]heptanoic acid)						9640
*	*	*	*	*	*	*

[12] Statistics of U.S. Businesses, 2022 SUSB Annual Data Tables by Establishment Industry, *https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2021/econ/susb/2021-susb-annual.html* (Accessed 9/25/2025).

[13] U.S. Small Business Administration, Table of size standards, Version March 2023, Effective: March 17, 2023, *https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/Table%20of%20Size%20Standards_Effective%20March%2017%2C%202023%20%282%29.pdf* (accessed September 25, 2025).

[14] Based on the estimated number of firms below the SBA size standard for each industry.

[15] SciFinder; Chemical Abstracts Service: Columbus, OH; CAS 2504100–70–1; *https://scifinder.cas.org* (accessed September 24, 2025).

[16] 25/1,099 = 2.27 percent.

* * * * *

Signing Authority

This document of the Drug Enforcement Administration was signed on July 6, 2026, by Administrator Terrance 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**.

Leslie Mayer,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, Drug Enforcement Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026–13821 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 260706–0162]

RIN 0648–BN67

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of America, and South Atlantic; Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan; Amendment 4

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes regulations to implement Amendment 4 to the Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan (Puerto Rico FMP), as prepared and submitted by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council). The proposed rule would reclassify rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP. The proposed rule would implement management measures for rainbow runner based on the pelagic fish classification, including sector annual catch targets (ACTs) and accountability measures (AMs). The sector-specific annual catch limits (ACLs) would be retained after the reclassification. The purpose of this proposed rule and Amendment 4 is to ensure that rainbow runner is managed consistent with its life history characteristics, fishing patterns, and with the Council's management of other pelagic species.

DATES: Written comments must be received by August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: A plain language summary of this proposed rule is available at *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NMFS-2025-0471.* You may submit comments on the proposed rule, identified by ''NOAA–NMFS–2025–0471,'' by either of the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Visit *https://www.regulations.gov* and enter ''NOAA–NMFS–2025–0471'' in the Search box. Click on the ''Comment'' icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- *Mail:* Submit all written comments to Maria Lopez-Mercer, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

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 on *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).

Electronic copies of Amendment 4, which includes a fishery impact statement, a regulatory impact review, and a Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) analysis, may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office website at *https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-4-puerto-rico-fishery-management-plan-reclassification-rainbow-runner-pelagic-fish.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Lopez-Mercer, 727–824–5305, *maria.lopez@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Rainbow runner is currently managed under the Puerto Rico FMP as a reef fish. The FMP was prepared by the Council and NMFS, approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and implemented by NMFS through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Background

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that NMFS and the regional fishery management councils prevent overfishing and achieve, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from federally managed fish stocks to ensure that fishery resources are managed for the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to providing food production and recreational opportunities and protecting marine ecosystems.

This action is proposed under the statutory authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act section 303(a)(1) as necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery to prevent overfishing and to promote the long-term health and stability of the fishery.

During development of the Puerto Rico FMP, the finfish stocks were classified into three descriptive categories: reef fish, pelagic fish, and rays. At that time, the rainbow runner and two other jack species that were new to Federal management under the Puerto Rico FMP (crevalle jack and African pompano) were classified as reef fish. Under the Puerto Rico FMP, each jack species is managed as an individual stock rather than in a stock complex because of differences in the primary location where they are caught. As described in the Puerto Rico FMP, rainbow runner is commonly caught in open water, while crevalle jack is commonly harvested closer to shore and around mangrove channels, and African pompano is commonly caught off the beach. With the implementation of the Puerto Rico FMP in October 2022, rainbow runner became subject to management measures applicable to reef fish in Federal waters around Puerto Rico. Federal waters around Puerto Rico extend seaward from 9 nautical miles (nmi) or 16.7 kilometers (km) from shore to the offshore boundary of the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Under the Puerto Rico FMP, regulations that apply to all reef fish, including rainbow runner as currently classified, include anchoring restrictions, prohibited fishing gear types, seasonal closures, and a combined recreational bag and possession limit. Also, as a reef fish species, rainbow runner is subject to commercial and recreational ACLs, a total ACL, and sector-specific AMs.

Unless otherwise noted, all weights in this proposed rule are described in pounds (lb) round weight. Under the Puerto Rico FMP, commercial and recreational data were available to

establish sector-specific ACLs for rainbow runner, which were equal to 10.14 percent for commercial and 89.86 percent for recreational of the total ACL. For rainbow runner, the commercial ACL is 913 lb (414.1 kg), the recreational ACL is 8,091 lb (3,670 kg), and the total ACL is 9,004 lb (4,084.1 kg).

Under the Puerto Rico FMP, at or near the beginning of the fishing year landings for each stock, stock complex, or indicator stock of reef fish are evaluated relative to the ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP (50 CFR 622.440(a)(4)). When landings for one sector are not available for comparison to that sector's ACL, the ACL for the sector with available landings is the applicable ACL for the stock or stock complex. At this time, recreational landings for rainbow runner are not available; therefore, commercial landings are evaluated relative to the commercial ACL to determine if the AM specified in 50 CFR 622.440(a)(7) applies. If NMFS estimates that available commercial landings for rainbow runner have exceeded the commercial ACL, the Assistant Administrator for NMFS will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register to reduce the length of the commercial and recreational fishing seasons for rainbow runner within that fishing year by the amount necessary to prevent commercial landings from exceeding the commercial ACL, unless NMFS determines that a reduction is not necessary based on the best scientific information available, or unless the ACL was exceeded because data collection or monitoring improved rather than because landings increased (50 CFR 622.440(a)(7)).

The status of the Puerto Rico rainbow runner stock has not been assessed. Since implementation of the Puerto Rico FMP in 2022, rainbow runner is not undergoing overfishing and its overfished status is unknown. As described in Amendment 4, no AM-based fishing season reductions for rainbow runner have been applied. In 2024, the most recent commercial landings of rainbow runner (1,177 lb (534 kg) in 2022) exceeded the commercial ACL (913 lb (414.1 kg)) by 264 lb (120 kg). However, the AM was not implemented (*i.e.,* the lengths of the commercial and recreational fishing seasons were not reduced) because NMFS determined that the commercial ACL was exceeded because of improved data collection and monitoring, rather than an increase in landings.

At the April 2023 Council meeting, the Council began to discuss reclassifying rainbow runner as a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP instead of as a reef fish to better reflect the way the species is fished. Methods and techniques used to harvest rainbow runner are consistent with those used for pelagic fishing in Federal waters around Puerto Rico. Around Puerto Rico, rainbow runner are caught in the water column, while reef fish are usually caught off the bottom. The Council requested its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to evaluate life history information and landings data available for rainbow runner and provide a recommendation on the classification of rainbow runner. The SSC determined that there was sufficient information to support the reclassification of the species as a pelagic fish and recommended that the Council reclassify rainbow runner as a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP. At the August 2023 Council meeting, the Council accepted the SSC's recommendation and began developing Amendment 4.

Management Measures Contained in This Proposed Rule

This proposed rule would reclassify rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP definitions. The reclassification would subject rainbow runner to Federal regulations under the FMP applicable to pelagic fish and exclude the species from Federal regulations applicable to reef fish. The current sector ACLs would not change as a result of the reclassification. This proposed rule would also establish sector ACTs and subject rainbow runner to AMs consistent with management of pelagic fish.

Reclassification of Rainbow Runner as a Pelagic Fish

Rainbow runner is currently defined as a reef fish species under the Puerto Rico FMP (50 CFR 622.431). As such, regulations that pertain to managed reef fish apply to rainbow runner. Reef fish-specific regulations include anchoring restrictions, prohibited fishing gear types, seasonal closures, a combined recreational bag and possession limit, a total ACL (*i.e.,* combined commercial and recreational ACLs), and sector-specific AMs. This proposed rule would remove rainbow runner from the definition of ''reef fish'' in table 3 to 50 CFR 622.431 and add it to the definition of ''pelagic fish'' in table 1 to 50 CFR 622.431.

As a result of the changes to the definitions, reef fish-specific regulations under the FMP would no longer apply to rainbow runner. Specifically, restrictions designed to protect reef fish populations, including a recreational bag and possession limit (50 CFR 622.444(a)(2)) and a seasonal closure in the Bajo de Sico area off western Puerto Rico (50 CFR 622.439(a)(3)), would not apply to rainbow runner as a pelagic fish.

As described in Amendment 4, rainbow runner behaves as a pelagic species and has been historically targeted by Puerto Rico commercial and recreational fishermen consistent with other pelagic species, although catches are infrequent and variable. Reclassifying rainbow runner as a pelagic fish is not expected to change how the species is currently fished in Federal waters around Puerto Rico or increase the risk of overfishing of the stock. Under the Puerto Rico FMP, crevalle jack and African pompano would continue to be classified and managed as reef fish, which is consistent with their life history characteristics and fishing patterns in Federal waters around Puerto Rico.

ACLs and ACTs

Reclassifying rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP would not change the commercial ACL (913 lb (414 kg)) or the recreational ACL (8,091 lb (3,670 kg)). Rather, the reclassification would remove rainbow runner commercial, recreational, and total ACLs from the tables for reef fish under 50 CFR 622.440(a) and add the commercial and recreational ACLs to 50 CFR 622.440(b) for pelagic fish. The sector allocations of 10.14 percent commercial and 89.86 percent recreational that were established under the Puerto Rico FMP would remain unchanged. Because AMs for pelagic fish do not evaluate landings relative to total ACLs (*i.e.,* combined commercial and recreational ACLs), the total ACL value of 9,004 lb (4,084.1 kg) for rainbow runner would be removed from regulations.

Additionally, the reclassification as a pelagic fish would require the establishment of sector-specific ACTs as part of the AMs applicable to pelagic fish. Consistent with management of the other pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP, the sector ACTs would be set at 90 percent of their respective sector ACLs.

Managing pelagic species with sector ACTs and ACLs is intended to serve as a precautionary measure to address harvest uncertainty for pelagic species that are new to Federal management. This proposed rule would set the commercial ACT of rainbow runner at 822 lb (373 kg) and the recreational ACT at 7,282 lb (3,303 kg).

AMs

This proposed rule would also change the AM applicable to rainbow runner from the AMs described in 50 CFR 622.440(a)(4) through (7) for reef fish and apply the pelagic fish AM described in 50 CFR 622.440(b)(7). Under the pelagic fish AM, if NMFS estimates that landings have exceeded the applicable ACT for a stock or stock complex, NMFS will determine the appropriate corrective action in consultation with the Council. Unlike a fixed seasonal closure, these measures are adaptive and could involve the future development and implementation of new management measures, such as seasonal or area closures, commercial trip limits, or recreational bag and possession limits.

By applying the pelagic AM to rainbow runner, the corrective action includes a consultation process to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource, rather than an automatic season reduction.

Classification

Pursuant to section 304(b)(1)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the NMFS Assistant Administrator has determined that this proposed rule is consistent with Amendment 4, the FMP, other provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law, subject to further consideration after public comment.

This proposed rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. This proposed rule is not an Executive Order 14192 regulatory action because this rule is not significant under Executive Order 12866.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act provides the statutory basis for this proposed rule. No duplicative, overlapping, or conflicting Federal rules have been identified. In addition, no new reporting, record-keeping, or other compliance requirements are introduced by this proposed rule. This proposed rule contains no information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The Senior Lead 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 factual basis for this certification follows. A copy of the full analysis is available from NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**). All monetary estimates in the following analysis are in 2022 dollars.

A description of this proposed rule, why it is being considered, and the objectives of this proposed rule are contained in the **SUMMARY** and **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** sections of this proposed rule.

This proposed rule would reclassify rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP, which would remove the species from Federal regulations applicable to reef fish, retain the current sector ACLs under pelagic fish, establish sector ACTs, and apply pelagic fish AMs consistent with management of pelagic fish.

For rainbow runner, the current commercial ACL of 913 lb (414.1 kg) and the current recreational ACL of 8,091 lb (3,670 kg) would not change after being classified as a pelagic fish species. The reclassification of rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the FMP would require that sector-specific ACTs be established as part of the AM applicable to pelagic fish. This proposed rule would establish a commercial ACT of 822 lb (373 kg) and a recreational ACT of 7,282 lb (3,303 kg) for rainbow runner.

This proposed rule would also implement AMs consistent with management of pelagic fish, such that if NMFS estimates that landings have exceeded the applicable ACT for a stock or stock complex, NMFS will determine appropriate corrective action in consultation with the Council. Under the current reef fish AMs, if NMFS estimates that landings for rainbow runner exceeded the applicable ACL for the stock (*i.e.,* the commercial ACL), NMFS will reduce the length of the fishing season for rainbow runner within the fishing year by the amount necessary to prevent landings from exceeding the ACL. However, no reduction in the fishing season is required if NMFS determines that a reduction is not necessary based on the best scientific information available or if the ACL was exceeded because data collection or monitoring improved rather than because landings increased.

This proposed rule would apply to all commercial fishing businesses, charter vessel and headboat (for-hire) fishing businesses, and recreational fishers (anglers) that fish for rainbow runner in the EEZ around Puerto Rico.

The RFA requires NMFS to describe the impact of the proposed rule on small entities (5 U.S.C. 603). Small entities include small businesses, small organizations, and small governmental jurisdictions (5 U.S.C. 601(3)–(6)). Recreational anglers are not businesses, organizations, or governmental jurisdictions, so they are outside the scope of this analysis.

Although this proposed rule would apply to for-hire vessels, it would not be expected to have any direct effects on these entities. For-hire fishing businesses sell services to anglers and any change in demand for their fishing services as a result of this action would be dependent upon changes in anglers' behavior. Therefore, any impact on for-hire fishing businesses would be an indirect effect of this proposed rule and would fall outside the scope of the RFA. In summary, only the impacts on commercial fishing businesses are discussed here.

Estimates of the number of small commercial fishing businesses that are directly affected by this proposed rule are based on the number of commercial fishermen who report their landings. Any business that operates a commercial fishing vessel that lands fish in Puerto Rico must be licensed to do so by the territorial government. Each licensed fisherman represents a unique commercial fishing business. The process of reporting commercial landings has changed in the past 8 years in Puerto Rico. Prior to 2020, there was only one way that commercial fishermen could report their landings and that was with the commercial catch report (CCR) form for Puerto Rico, which was a paper form. Since 2020, fishermen can opt to report their landings using the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources electronic reporting (e-reporting) system rather than the CCR form. Fishermen can access the e-reporting application with their phones, tablets, or computers. They collect and submit the required data, such as fish type, time of catch, quantity of catch and more, while they are out on the water, at the dock, or back at home. Some continue to use the CCR form, while others are opting to use the e-reporting application.

Rainbow runner has never been a species identified on the CCR form. For a fisherman to report landings of rainbow runner on the CCR form, they have to either include those landings within the broader listed category of jacks or write in rainbow runner and its landings on the form. There is a similar issue with e-reporting. Fishermen who land rainbow runner have to search for rainbow runner and mark it when using the app or can include its landings under the broader category of jacks. Consequently, it is expected that reported landings, specifically of rainbow runner, do not include all landings of rainbow runner, and that reported landings (specifically of jacks)

include not just rainbow runner, but other species as well.

Commercial landings data from 2021 through 2022 are used to estimate the number of small businesses that would be directly affected by this proposed rule. Note, earlier years of data are excluded to preserve confidentiality. From 2021 through 2022, there were an average of five fishermen that reported landings of rainbow runner annually and each landed, on average, approximately 180 lb (82 kg) of rainbow runner from all waters. During that same period, an annual average of 265 fishermen reported landings of jacks from the EEZ and unknown waters and each landed, on average, approximately 225 lb (102 kg) of jacks.

Each commercial fisherman in Puerto Rico is assumed to represent a unique commercial fishing business. The greatest annual total revenue from all landings among any of the fishermen who reported landings of either jacks (as a general category) or rainbow runner from the EEZ and unknown waters was less than $100,000. More generally, maximum total annual revenue for any commercial fisherman operating in Puerto Rico was less than $600,000 from 2015 through 2019.

For RFA purposes only, NMFS has established a small business size standard for businesses, including their affiliates, whose primary industry is commercial fishing (see 50 CFR 200.2). A business primarily engaged in commercial fishing (North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code 11411) is classified as a small business if it is independently owned and operated, is not dominant in its field of operation (including its affiliates), and has combined annual receipts not in excess of $11 million for all its affiliated operations worldwide. All of the commercial fishing businesses directly regulated by this proposed rule are believed to be small entities based on the NMFS size standard. No other small entities that would be directly affected by this proposed rule have been identified.

This proposed rule would reclassify rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP. There are multiple impacts of the reclassification on small commercial fishing businesses that harvest rainbow runner from the EEZ and unknown waters.

First, currently as a reef fish, fishing for and possession of rainbow runner is prohibited from October 1 through March 31, each year, in or from those parts of Bajo de Sico that are in the EEZ around Puerto Rico. This seasonal closure does not apply to pelagic fish. As such, the proposed reclassification of rainbow runner from a reef fish to a pelagic fish could directly benefit small commercial fishing businesses by allowing them to fish for and possess rainbow runner during the Bajo de Sico closed season. Bajo de Sico is an area of state and Federal waters off the west coast of Puerto Rico and most reported landings of rainbow runner or jacks occur on Puerto Rico's west coast. The magnitude of the potential direct economic benefit, however, cannot be estimated since CCR and e-reporting landings data are not of sufficient detail to estimate rainbow runner landings that derive from fishing in Federal waters of Bajo de Sico. Any potential increase in landings, ex-vessel revenue, or profits would be constrained by the commercial ACL and the proposed ACT.

Second, as a reef fish, rainbow runner currently has a commercial ACL of 913 lb (414.1 kg) and no corresponding commercial ACT. Each pelagic fish under the Puerto Rico FMP has both a commercial ACL and commercial ACT, the latter of which is set at 90 percent of the commercial ACL. This proposed rule would keep the commercial ACL for rainbow runner at 913 lb (414.1 kg) and establish a proposed commercial ACT of 822 lb (373 kg). Landings of rainbow runner as a pelagic fish would be compared to its commercial ACT rather than just its commercial ACL to determine if an action must be taken to limit its landings. The potential impact of this, however, is dependent on the proposed changes to the AM for rainbow runner, as discussed in the next paragraph.

Third, as a reef fish, rainbow runner currently has an AM that is more likely to cause a reduction in the length of the fishing season than if it were a pelagic fish. Currently, the AM for rainbow runner as a reef fish is as follows. At or near the beginning of the fishing year, commercial landings for reef fish are evaluated relative to the commercial ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the Puerto Rico FMP. If the multi-year average of commercial landings exceeds the commercial ACL (which is the trigger), the length of the fishing season is reduced. However, no reduction in the fishing season is required if NMFS determines that a reduction is not necessary based on the best scientific information available or if the ACL was exceeded because data collection or monitoring improved rather than because landings increased. In 2022, commercial landings of rainbow runner exceeded its commercial ACL. However, NMFS determined that the increased landings were indicative of improvement in data collection and monitoring, rather than increased effort, and as such, there was no reduction in the length of the fishing season for rainbow runner. Nonetheless, if commercial landings continue to exceed the commercial ACL for rainbow runner, it could lead to a possible reduction in the length of a future fishing season.

If reclassified as a pelagic fish, the AM for rainbow runner would be as follows. At or near the beginning of the fishing year, commercial landings for rainbow runner will be evaluated relative to the commercial ACT based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the Puerto Rico FMP. If NMFS estimates that commercial landings have exceeded the commercial ACT, NMFS, in consultation with the Council, will determine appropriate corrective action. In 2022, commercial landings exceeded the proposed commercial ACT, which indicates there could be more triggering of the AM for rainbow runner as a pelagic fish rather than as a reef fish. As described above, if increased landings are indicative of improvement in data collection or monitoring, rather than increased effort, no corrective action may be necessary to limit landings. However, if there was an increase in effort, as a pelagic fish, a reduction in the length of the fishing season would be among the kinds of corrective actions that could be used to reduce commercial landings.

There have been no reductions in the length of a rainbow runner fishing season to date. No single year or multi-year average of reported commercial landings of rainbow runner (CCR form) from 2015 through 2019 reached or exceeded the commercial ACL of 913 lb (414.1 kg). However, in 2022 with the inclusion of e-reporting, commercial landings of rainbow runner exceeded its commercial ACL for the first time. NMFS determined that the overage was due to enhanced or improved data collection or monitoring and no AM was implemented for the species.

Assuming future fishing effort and rainbow runner landings remain consistent with historical effort and landings, the establishment of the proposed commercial ACT and the proposed changes to the rainbow runner AM would not be expected to have a significant economic impact on small businesses. This proposed rule could have a potential beneficial economic impact on small commercial fishing businesses in Puerto Rico by allowing them to fish for rainbow runner in Federal waters of Bajo de Sico when it is otherwise closed to reef fish fishing.

This potential beneficial impact cannot be estimated with available data; however, it would be constrained upwards by the commercial ACL and proposed ACT.

In summary, this proposed rule would reclassify rainbow runner from being a reef fish to a pelagic fish. The establishment of the proposed commercial ACT and the proposed changes to the rainbow runner AM would not be expected to have significant economic impacts on small businesses. This proposed rule could have a potential beneficial economic impact on small commercial fishing businesses in Puerto Rico by allowing them to fish for rainbow runner in Federal waters of Bajo de Sico when it is otherwise closed to reef fish fishing. This beneficial impact cannot be estimated with available data; however, it would be constrained upwards by the commercial ACL and proposed ACT. In conclusion, this proposed rule would not be expected to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. As a result, an initial regulatory flexibility analysis is not required and none has been prepared.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 622

Caribbean, Fisheries, Fishing, Puerto Rico, Rainbow runner.

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

Dated: July 6, 2026.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

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

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS proposes to amend 50 CFR part 622 as follows:

PART 622—FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF AMERICA, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

■ 1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

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

■ 2. In § 622.431, under the definition of *Pelagic fish* revise Table 1 to § 622.431 and under the definition of *Reef fish* revise Table 3 to § 622.431 to read as follows:

§ 622.431 Definitions.

* * * * *

TABLE 1 TO § 622.431

Class or family	Scientific name	English common name
Dolphinfishes—Coryphaenidae	*Coryphaena hippurus*	Dolphinfish.
	Coryphaena equiselis	Pompano dolphinfish.
Barracudas—Sphyraenidae	*Sphyraena barracuda*	Great barracuda.
Jacks—Carangidae	*Elagatis bipinnulata*	Rainbow runner.
Mackerels and tunas—Scombridae	*Thunnus atlanticus*	Blackfin tuna.
	Scomberomorus regalis	Cero.
	Scomberomorus cavalla	King mackerel.
	Euthynnus alletteratus	Little tunny.
	Acanthocybium solandri	Wahoo.
Tripletails—Lobotidae	*Lobotes surinamensis*	Tripletail.

* * * * *

TABLE 3 TO § 622.431

Class or family	Scientific name	English common name
Angelfishes—Pomacanthidae	*Pomacanthus paru*	French angelfish.
	Pomacanthus arcuatus	Gray angelfish.
	Holacanthus ciliaris	Queen angelfish.
Groupers—Serranidae	*Mycteroperca bonaci*	Black grouper.
	Cephalopholis fulva	Coney.
	Epinephelus itajara	Goliath grouper.
	Cephalopholis cruentata	Graysby.
	Hyporthodus mystacinus	Misty grouper.
	Epinephelus striatus	Nassau grouper.
	Epinephelus morio	Red grouper.
	Epinephelus guttatus	Red hind.
	Epinephelus adscensionis	Rock hind.
	Mycteroperca tigris	Tiger grouper.
	Hyporthodus flavolimbatus	Yellowedge grouper.
	Mycteroperca venenosa	Yellowfin grouper.
	Mycteroperca interstitialis	Yellowmouth grouper.
Grunts—Haemulidae	*Haemulon plumierii*	White grunt.
Jacks—Carangidae	*Alectis ciliaris*	African pompano.
	Caranx hippos	Crevalle jack.
Parrotfishes—Scaridae	*Scarus coeruleus*	Blue parrotfish.
	Scarus coelestinus	Midnight parrotfish.
	Scarus taeniopterus	Princess parrotfish.
	Scarus vetula	Queen parrotfish.
	Scarus guacamaia	Rainbow parrotfish.
	Sparisoma aurofrenatum	Redband parrotfish.
	Sparisoma chrysopterum	Redtail parrotfish.
	Sparisoma viride	Stoplight parrotfish.

TABLE 3 TO § 622.431—Continued

Class or family	Scientific name	English common name
	Scarus iseri	Striped parrotfish.
Snappers—Lutjanidae	*Apsilus dentatus*	Black snapper.
	Lutjanus buccanella	Blackfin snapper.
	Pristipomoides macrophthalmus	Cardinal snapper.
	Lutjanus cyanopterus	Cubera snapper.
	Lutjanus jocu	Dog snapper.
	Lutjanus synagris	Lane snapper.
	Lutjanus analis	Mutton snapper.
	Etelis oculatus	Queen snapper.
	Lutjanus apodus	Schoolmaster.
	Lutjanus vivanus	Silk snapper.
	Rhomboplites aurorubens	Vermilion snapper.
	Pristipomoides aquilonaris	Wenchman.
	Ocyurus chrysurus	Yellowtail snapper.
Surgeonfishes—Acanthuridae	*Acanthurus coeruleus*	Blue tang.
	Acanthurus chirurgus	Doctorfish.
	Acanthurus tractus	Ocean surgeonfish.
Triggerfishes—Balistidae	*Balistes capriscus*	Gray triggerfish.
	Canthidermis sufflamen	Ocean triggerfish.
	Balistes vetula	Queen triggerfish.
Wrasses—Labridae	*Lachnolaimus maximus*	Hogfish.
	Halichoeres radiatus	Puddingwife.
	Bodianus rufus	Spanish hogfish.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 622.440, revise paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) and paragraph (b) to read as follows:

§ 622.440 Annual catch limits (ACLs), annual catch targets (ACTs), and accountability measures (AMs).

(a) * * *

(1) *Commercial ACLs.* The commercial ACLs are as follows and given in round weight.

TABLE 1 TO § 622.440(a)(1)

Family	Stock or stock complex and species composition	Commercial ACL
Angelfishes	Angelfish—French angelfish, gray angelfish, queen angelfish	137 lb (62.1 kg).
Groupers	Grouper 3—coney,[1] graysby	23,890 lb (10,836.3 kg).
	Grouper 4—black grouper, red grouper, tiger grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper.	2,492 lb (1,130.3 kg).
	Grouper 5—misty grouper, yellowedge grouper	15,327 lb (6,952.2 kg).
	Grouper 6—red hind,[1] rock hind	121,729 lb (55,215.3 kg).
Grunts	Grunts—white grunt	177,923 lb (80,704.5 kg).
Jacks	Jacks 1—crevalle jack	46 lb (20.8 kg).
	Jacks 2—African pompano	1,052 lb (477.1 kg).
Parrotfishes	Parrotfish 2—princess parrotfish, queen parrotfish, redband parrotfish, redtail parrotfish, stoplight parrotfish, striped parrotfish.	147,774 lb (67,029.1 kg).
Snappers	Snapper 1—black snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper,[1] vermilion snapper, wenchman.	424,009 lb (192,327.2 kg).
	Snapper 2—cardinal snapper, queen snapper[1]	257,236 lb (116,680.2 kg).
	Snapper 3—lane snapper	244,376 lb (110,847 kg).
	Snapper 4—dog snapper, mutton snapper,[1] schoolmaster	116,434 lb (52,813.5 kg).
	Snapper 5—yellowtail snapper	315,806 lb (143,247.1 kg).
	Snapper 6—cubera snapper	119 lb (53.9 kg).
Surgeonfishes	Surgeonfish—blue tang, doctorfish, ocean surgeonfish	147 lb (66.6 kg).
Triggerfishes	Triggerfish—gray triggerfish, ocean triggerfish, queen triggerfish[1]	83,099 lb (37,693 kg).
Wrasses	Wrasses 1—hogfish	70,140 lb (31,814.9 kg).
	Wrasses 2—puddingwife, Spanish hogfish	20,126 lb (9,129 kg).

[1] Indicator stock.

(2) *Recreational ACLs.* The recreational ACLs are as follows and given in round weight.

TABLE 2 TO § 622.440(a)(2)

Family	Stock or stock complex and species composition	Recreational ACL
Angelfishes	Angelfish—French angelfish, gray angelfish, queen angelfish	2,985 lb (1,353.9 kg).
Groupers	Grouper 3—coney,[1] graysby	19,634 lb (8,905.8 kg).

TABLE 2 TO § 622.440(a)(2)—Continued

Family	Stock or stock complex and species composition	Recreational ACL
	Grouper 4—black grouper, red grouper, tiger grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper.	5,867 lb (2,661.2 kg).
	Grouper 5—misty grouper, yellowedge grouper	4,225 lb (1,916.4 kg).
	Grouper 6—red hind,[1] rock hind	34,493 lb (15,645.7 kg).
Grunts	Grunts—white grunt	2,461 lb (1,116.2 kg).
Jacks	Jacks 1—crevalle jack	41,894 lb (19,002.7 kg).
	Jacks 2—African pompano	5,719 lb (2,594 kg).
Parrotfishes	Parrotfish 2—princess parrotfish, queen parrotfish, redband parrotfish, redtail parrotfish, stoplight parrotfish, striped parrotfish.	17,052 lb (7,734.6 kg).
Snappers	Snapper 1—black snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper,[1] vermilion snapper, wenchman.	111,943 lb (50,776.4 kg).
	Snapper 2—cardinal snapper, queen snapper[1]	24,974 lb (11,328 kg).
	Snapper 3—lane snapper	21,603 lb (9,798.9 kg).
	Snapper 4—dog snapper, mutton snapper,[1] schoolmaster	76,625 lb (34,756.5 kg).
	Snapper 5—yellowtail snapper	23,988 lb (10,880.7 kg).
	Snapper 6—cubera snapper	6,448 lb (2,924.7 kg).
Surgeonfishes	Surgeonfish—blue tang, doctorfish, ocean surgeonfish	860 lb (390 kg).
Triggerfishes	Triggerfish—gray triggerfish, ocean triggerfish, queen triggerfish[1]	7,453 lb (3,380.6 kg).
Wrasses	Wrasses 1—hogfish	8,263 lb (3,748 kg).
	Wrasses 2—puddingwife, Spanish hogfish	5,372 lb (2,436.6 kg).

[1] Indicator stock.

(3) *Total ACLs.* The total ACLs (combined commercial and recreational ACLs) are as follows and given in round weight.

TABLE 3 TO § 622.440(a)(3)

Family	Stock or stock complex and species composition	Total ACL
Angelfishes	Angelfish—French angelfish, gray angelfish, queen angelfish	3,122 lb (1,416.1 kg).
Groupers	Grouper 3—coney,[1] graysby	43,524 lb (19,742.1 kg).
	Grouper 4—black grouper, red grouper, tiger grouper, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper.	8,359 lb (3,791.5 kg).
	Grouper 5—misty grouper, yellowedge grouper	19,552 lb (8,868.6 kg).
	Grouper 6—red hind,[1] rock hind	156,222 lb (70,861.1 kg).
Grunts	Grunts—white grunt	180,384 lb (81,820.8 kg).
Jacks	Jacks 1—crevalle jack	41,940 lb (19,023.6 kg).
	Jacks 2—African pompano	6,771 lb (3,071.2 kg).
Parrotfishes	Parrotfish 2—princess parrotfish, queen parrotfish, redband parrotfish, redtail parrotfish, stoplight parrotfish, striped parrotfish.	164,826 lb (74,763.8 kg).
Snappers	Snapper 1—black snapper, blackfin snapper, silk snapper,[1] vermilion snapper, wenchman.	535,952 lb (243,103.7 kg).
	Snapper 2—cardinal snapper, queen snapper[1]	282,210 lb (128,008.3 kg).
	Snapper 3—lane snapper	265,979 lb (120,646 kg).
	Snapper 4—dog snapper, mutton snapper,[1] schoolmaster	193,059 lb (87,570 kg).
	Snapper 5—yellowtail snapper	339,794 lb (154,127.9 kg).
	Snapper 6—cubera snapper	6,567 lb (2,978.7 kg).
Surgeonfishes	Surgeonfish—blue tang, doctorfish, ocean surgeonfish	1,007 lb (456.7 kg).
Triggerfishes	Triggerfish—gray triggerfish, ocean triggerfish, queen triggerfish[1]	90,552 lb (41,073.6 kg).
Wrasses	Wrasses 1—hogfish	78,403 lb (35,563 kg).
	Wrasses 2—puddingwife, Spanish hogfish	25,498 lb (11,565.6 kg).

[1] Indicator stock.

* * * * *

(b) *Pelagic fish.* The ACLs and ACTs are given in round weight. Indicator stocks are noted in the relevant tables to paragraph (a) of this section. For those fishing commercially, the applicable ACL is the commercial ACL and the applicable ACT is the commercial ACT. For those fishing recreationally, the applicable ACL is the recreational ACL and the applicable ACT is the recreational ACT. When landings for one sector are not available for comparison to that sector's ACL and ACT, the ACL and ACT for the sector with available landings are the ACL and ACT for the stock or stock complex.

(1) *Barracuda—great barracuda.*

(i) Commercial ACL—495 lb (224.5 kg).

(ii) Commercial ACT—445 lb (201.8 kg).

(iii) Recreational ACL—167,693 lb (76,064.2 kg).

(iv) Recreational ACT—150,924 lb (68,457.9 kg).

(2) *Dolphinfishes—dolphinfish, pompano dolphinfish.*

(i) Commercial ACL—232,173 lb (105,311.9 kg).

(ii) Commercial ACT—208,956 lb (94,780.8 kg).

(iii) Recreational ACL—1,513,873 lb (686,681.2 kg).

(iv) Recreational ACT—1,362,486 lb (618,013.2 kg).

(3) *Jacks—rainbow runner.*

(i) Commercial ACL—913 lb (414.1 kg).

(ii) Commercial ACT—822 lb (373 kg).

(iii) Recreational ACL—8,091 lb (3,670 kg).

(iv) Recreational ACT—7,282 lb (3,303 kg).

(4) *Mackerels—cero, king mackerel.*

(i) Commercial ACL—232,422 lb (105,424.8 kg).

(ii) Commercial ACT—209,180 lb (94,882.4 kg).

(iii) Recreational ACL—129,180 lb (58,595 kg).

(iv) Recreational ACT—116,262 lb (52,735.5 kg).

(5) *Tripletail.*

(i) Commercial ACL—270 lb (122.4 kg).

(ii) Commercial ACT—243 lb (110.2 kg).

(iii) Recreational ACL—39,005 lb (17,692.3 kg).

(iv) Recreational ACT—35,105 lb (15,923.3 kg).

(6) *Tunas—blackfin tuna, little tunny.*

(i) Commercial ACL—82,779 lb (37,547.9 kg).

(ii) Commercial ACT—74,501 lb (33,793 kg).

(iii) Recreational ACL—34,485 lb (15,642.1 kg).

(iv) Recreational ACT—31,037 lb (14,078.1 kg).

(7) *Wahoo.*

(i) Commercial ACL—25,911 lb (11,753 kg).

(ii) Commercial ACT—23,320 lb (10,577.7 kg).

(iii) Recreational ACL—210,737 lb (95,588.6 kg).

(iv) Recreational ACT—189,663 lb (86,029.6 kg).

(8) *Pelagic fish AM application.* At or near the beginning the fishing year, landings for each stock, stock complex, or indicator stock will be evaluated relative to the applicable ACT for the stock or stock complex based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP. If NMFS estimates that landings have exceeded the applicable ACT specified in paragraph (b) of this section for a stock or stock complex, NMFS in consultation with the Caribbean Fishery Management Council will determine appropriate corrective action.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 2026–13808 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No.: 260702–0160]

RIN 0648–BO38

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Omnibus Management Flexibility Amendment to New England Fishery Management Council Fishery Management Plans

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to implement the Omnibus Management Flexibility Amendment to the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) (Amendment), as prepared by the Council. This proposed rule would allow for changes to the specifications process, in-season adjustment authority, and preparation of Council reports and reviews. The purpose of this action is to address the need for increased management flexibility and consistency across all the Council's FMPs.

DATES: Comments must be received by August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2026–0067, by the following method:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to *https://www.regulations.gov* and enter NOAA–NMFS–2026–0067 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 on *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).

Electronic copies of the Omnibus Management Flexibility Amendment may be obtained from *https://www.regulations.gov* and the New England Fishery Management Council website at *https://www.nefmc.org/library/omnibus-management-flexibility-amendment.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Travis Ford, 978–281–9233, *travis.ford@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS and the Council manage fishery resources under nine separate FMPs for 27 species off the New England and Mid-Atlantic coasts. The Council prepares the FMPs and any associated amendments, and NMFS, reviews, and if approved, implements the FMPs and amendments to the FMPs through regulations at 50 CFR part 648 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Background

The Council developed this Amendment in response to Executive Order 14276, *Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness* to reduce regulatory burden and enhance access to fishery resources. At its September 2025 meeting, the Council voted to submit the Amendment to NMFS. Because the Monkfish FMP is jointly managed by the New England Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Council took final action on the monkfish aspects of the Amendment at its October 2025 meeting and adopted the New England Council's selected monkfish measures. If approved, NMFS proposes to implement this amendment. This proposed rule would apply across the New England Council's FMPs and would include administrative changes to specifications frequency, the specifications setting process, in-season adjustment authority, and the preparation of Council reports and reviews. The proposed action is intended to enhance consistency across all the Council's FMPs, streamline regulatory requirements, and provide the Council with increased flexibility in managing its FMPs.

Proposed Measures

Specifications Frequency

Currently, all the Council's FMPs require specifications to be set at varying frequencies (Table 1). Given the uncertainty in the availability of updated stock assessments and data updates, some FMPs may be required to set specifications even when there are no updated assessment products

available. To allow for greater flexibility in planning stock assessments, data updates, and subsequent management actions, this action would allow the Council to recommend specifications for one to up to five years, consistent with best available science, across all of its FMPs.

TABLE 1—CURRENT SPECIFICATIONS FREQUENCY FOR EACH FMP

FMP	Current specifications frequency
Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)	Every 3 years for each Northeast multispecies stock.
Atlantic Sea Scallop	Up to 2 years, as well as second or third-year default measures.
Monkfish	Specified for each monkfish stock for multiple years as determined necessary to best align management with the stock assessment process for this fishery.
Atlantic Herring	3-year specifications.
Northeast Skate Complex	Up to 2 fishing years.
Small-Mesh Multispecies	On at least a 3-year basis.
Red Crab	No frequency specified.

Specification Setting Process

A defined specifications process allows the Council to implement routine specifications (*e.g.,* annual catch and trip limits) through a more streamlined process. All the New England Council's FMPs except the Northeast Multispecies and Monkfish FMPs have a fully defined specification setting process. Because these two FMPs lack such a process, specifications actions in these FMPs must be developed by a framework adjustment or amendment. This action would establish a consistent specification setting process for the Northeast Multispecies and Monkfish FMPs, to streamline the setting of fishery specifications under a specification process without developing a framework adjustment action or amendment and align these FMPs with the Council's other FMPs. In addition, this action would add status determination criteria to the list of measures for the Northeast Skate Complex that could be adjusted through the specifications setting process or by framework adjustment.

Specific Measures Added to Specification Setting Process

Northeast Multispecies FMP—The measures that could be adjusted through the specification process include:

- Overfishing Limits (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catches (ABC), sub-Annual Catch Limits (ACL), sub-components;
- United States/Canada total allowable catches (TAC);
- Status determination criteria;
- Management uncertainty buffers;
- Recreational measures—adjustments to bag limits, seasons, fish size;
- Common pool trimester TAC distributions; and
- Creation of a new sector.

Monkfish FMP—The measures that could be adjusted through the specification process include:

- OFLs, ABCs, ACLs, ACTs, and Total Allowable Landings;
- Status determination criteria;
- Allocations and effort controls for the Research Set-Aside program; and
- Any other measures necessary to ensure that the specifications will not be exceeded, including but not limited to:
  - Accountability measures;
  - Commercial days-at-sea, minimum fish size, trip limits, seasons, blocks of time out of the fishery that a vessel must declare that it will not participate in the fishery, and landing ratios (*e.g.,* liver-to-monkfish and tail-to-whole conversions); and
  - Recreational possession limits, minimum fish size, and seasons.

Northeast Skate Complex FMP—This action would add status determination criteria to the existing list of measures that could be adjusted through the specification setting process or by a framework adjustment.

In-Season Adjustment Authority

The Atlantic Herring FMP provides for ''in-season adjustments,'' where the established specifications and sub-ACL may be adjusted by NMFS to achieve conservation and management objectives. This process requires the NMFS Regional Administrator to consult with the Council to allow changes during the fishing year. This provision has allowed managers the flexibility to respond in a timely manner to updated scientific and fishery information. This action would provide for in-season adjustment authority across all the Council's FMPs. Further, for all of its FMPs, this action would expand the use of in-season adjustments to established specifications and sub-ACLs beyond what the Atlantic Herring FMP would currently allow. Specifically, this action would allow for in-season adjustments to specifications and measures identified under specifications actions by FMP. These adjustments would help NMFS achieve an FMP's conservation and management objectives, after consulting with the Council, during the fishing year. Any adjustments would be consistent with the respective FMP's objectives and other FMP provisions.

Annual Review/Report

The Council's Monkfish and Northeast Skate Complex FMPs and the small-mesh fishery component of the Northeast Multispecies FMP require annual plan development team reviews and, in the case of small-mesh multispecies, also a report. These annual reviews and reports can be duplicative with other products of the Council (*e.g.,* risk policy matrices and specifications actions), and from NMFS (*e.g.,* online stock assessment and fishery evaluation reports, data updates, state of the ecosystem reports, and ecosystem and socioeconomic profiles). This action would remove the requirement to prepare an annual review in the Monkfish and Northeast Skate Complex FMPs, and, in addition, this action would also remove the requirements for a report and an annual review from the small-mesh fishery component of the Northeast Multispecies FMP. This action would not prevent the Council from prioritizing the preparation of an annual review or monitoring or performance report for any of the Council's FMPs through its priority setting process should it so choose.

List of Framework Adjustment Items

This action would add all the above-listed items to the list of framework adjustment items for the Northeast Multispecies (large- and small-mesh components), Atlantic Sea Scallop, Monkfish, Atlantic Herring, Northeast Skate Complex, and Red Crab FMPs. This includes:

- Specification frequency;
- Specification setting process;
- In-season adjustment authority; and
- Annual review/report.

Classification

Pursuant to section 304(b)(1)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the NMFS Assistant Administrator has made a preliminary determination that this proposed rule is consistent with the FMP, other provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law, subject to further consideration after public comment.

This proposed rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

This proposed rule is expected to be an Executive Order 14192 deregulatory action. The changes to the New England Fishery Management Council's FMPs are expected to prevent fishery delays, improve planning of Council final actions throughout the year, increase the ability to respond to new information in a timelier way, and improve allocation of Council resources.

The Senior Lead 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.

This proposed action is administrative in nature and would not affect the current operational regulations of the fisheries. The implementing regulations under this proposed action modify administrative measures to increase management flexibility and consistency in the Northeast Multispecies (large-mesh and small-mesh), Atlantic Sea Scallop, Monkfish, Atlantic Herring, Northeast Skate Complex, and Red Crab FMPs. These measures include changes to specifications frequency, specifications setting process, in-season adjustment authority, and preparation of Council reports/reviews.

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.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 648

Fisheries, Fishing, Recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

Dated: July 6, 2026.

Samuel D. Rauch III,

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

For the reasons set out in the preamble, NMFS proposes to amend 50 CFR part 648 as follows:

PART 648—FISHERIES OF THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 648 continues to read as follows:

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

■ 2. In § 648.55:
■ a. Revise paragraphs (a)(1), (3), (5), and (7);
■ b. Add paragraph (a)(8);
■ c. Revise paragraphs (f)(40) and (41); and
■ d. Add paragraphs (f)(42) through (45).

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 648.55 Specifications and framework adjustments to management measures.

(a) * * *

(1) The Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) shall meet at least every 2 years to assess the status of the scallop resource and, if necessary, to develop and recommend the following specifications for a period of up to 5 years, that may include default measures, for consideration by the New England Fishery Management Council's Atlantic Sea Scallop Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel: OFL, overall ABC/ACL, sub-ACLs, sub-ACTs, DAS open area allocations, possession limits, modifications to rotational area management (*e.g.,* schedule, rotational closures and openings, seasonal restrictions, modifications to boundaries), access area limited access poundage allocations and LAGC IFQ fleet-wide trip allocations, annual incidental catch target TAC, and NGOM TAL.

* * * * *

(3) The Council shall review these recommendations and, after considering public comments, shall recommend appropriate specifications for up to 5 years, that may include default measures, to NMFS. NMFS shall approve, disapprove, or partially approve the specifications recommended by the Council and publish the approved specifications in the **Federal Register** in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

* * * * *

(5) The PDT will meet at least once during the interim years to review the status of the stock relative to the overfishing definition if information is available to do so. If the Council determines, based on information provided by the PDT or other stock-related information, that the approved specifications should be adjusted during the interim time period, it can do so through the same process outlined in paragraphs (a)(2) through (a)(4) of this section during the interim year.

* * * * *

(7) If the Council decides to set specifications for 1 or 2 years, the specifications action shall also include default specifications that shall be effective in the second year after 1-year specifications and the third year after the 2-year specifications expire until replaced by the measures included in the next specifications action. If the specifications action is not published in the **Federal Register** with an effective date on or before April 1, the following year's default specifications shall be effective beginning April 1 of each fishing year until any new specifications action is implemented and made effective during the second or third year, or for the entire fishing year if the specifications action is not completed or is not implemented by NMFS during the following year. The specifications action shall specify the measures necessary to address inconsistencies between specifications and default allocations for the period after April 1 but before the specifications action is implemented for that year. The default specifications, if implemented, shall remain in effect until they are revised through a subsequent specifications action.

(8) The specifications and management measures identified under specifications actions established pursuant to this section may be adjusted by NMFS to achieve conservation and management objectives, after consulting with the Council, in accordance with the APA. Any adjustments must be consistent with the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP objectives and other FMP provisions.

* * * * *

(f) * * *

(40) Changes to the SBRM, including the CV-based performance standard, the means by which discard data are collected/obtained, fishery stratification, the process for prioritizing observer sea-day allocations, reports, and/or industry-funded observers or observer set-aside programs;

(41) Adjustments to specification frequency;

(42) Management measures in the specification setting process;

(43) Adjustments to in-season adjustment authority;

(44) Annual reports or reviews and any adjustments to their requirements; and

(45) Any other management measures currently included in the FMP.

* * * * *

■ 3. In § 648.90:
■ a. Revise paragraphs (a)(2)(iii)(R) and (S);

■ b. Add paragraphs (a)(2)(iii)(T) through (W);
■ c. Revise paragraphs (a)(4)(i) introductory text and (a)(4)(i)(A);
■ d. Add paragraph (a)(7);
■ e. Revise paragraphs (b)(1) introductory text, (b)(1)(i) and (b)(1)(iii);
■ f. Remove and reserve paragraph (b)(3);
■ g. Revise paragraph (b)(4)(i);
■ h. Remove and reserve paragraph (b)(4)(ii);
■ i. Revise paragraph (c)(1)(i); and
■ j. Add paragraph (c)(5).

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 648.90 NE multispecies assessment, framework procedures and specifications, and flexible area action system.

* * * * *

(a) * * *

(2) * * *

(iii) * * *

(R) Changes to the SBRM, including the CV-based performance standard, the means by which discard data are collected/obtained, fishery stratification, the process for prioritizing observer sea-day allocations, reports, and/or industry-funded observers or observer set aside programs;

(S) Adjustments to specification frequency;

(T) Management measures in the specification setting process;

(U) Adjustments to in-season adjustment authority;

(V) Annual reports or reviews and any adjustments to their requirements; and

(W) Any other measures currently included in the FMP.

* * * * *

(4) * * *

(i) *ABC/ACL recommendations.* As described in this paragraph (a)(4) the PDT shall, if necessary, develop recommendations for setting an ABC, ACL, and OFL for each NE multispecies stock for up to 5 years as part of the biennial review process specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. ACLs can also be specified based upon updated information in the annual SAFE report, as described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, and other available information as part of a specification package, as described in paragraph (a)(6) of this section. For NE multispecies stocks or stock components managed under both the NE Multispecies FMP and the Understanding, the PDT shall develop recommendations for ABCs, ACLs, and OFLs for the pertinent stock or stock components for up to 5 years as part of the annual process described in this paragraph (a)(4) and § 648.85(a)(2).

(A) *ABC recommendations.* The PDT shall develop ABC recommendations based on the ABC control rule, the fishing mortality rate necessary to rebuild the stock, guidance from the SSC, and any other available information. The PDT recommendations shall be reviewed by the SSC. Guided by terms of reference developed by the Council, the SSC shall either concur with the ABC recommendations provided by the PDT, or provide alternative recommendations for each stock of regulated species or ocean pout and describe the elements of scientific uncertainty used to develop its recommendations. Should the SSC recommend an ABC that differs from that originally recommended by the PDT, the PDT shall revise its ACL recommendations if necessary to be consistent with the ABC recommendations made by the SSC. In addition to consideration of ABCs, the SSC may consider other related issues specified in the terms of reference developed by the Council, including, but not limited to, OFLs, ACLs, and management uncertainty.

(ii) [Reserved]

* * * * *

(7) *Specifications—*

(i) *NE Multispecies Oversight Committee recommendations.* If necessary, based on the review described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the NE Multispecies Oversight Committee may develop specifications for the NE Multispecies FMP and recommend them to the Council.

(ii) *Council recommendations.* As described in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, the Council shall review these recommendations and, after considering public comments, shall recommend appropriate specifications for up to 5 years to NMFS. NMFS shall approve, disapprove, or partially approve the specifications recommended by the Council and publish the approved specifications in the **Federal Register** in accordance with the APA.

(iii) *Measures that may be included in specifications.* Specifications may include: OFLs, ABCs, ACLs, sub-ACLs, sub-components, trimester total allowable catches (TAC); United States/Canada TACs; adjustments to status determination criteria; management uncertainty buffers; recreational management measures, *e.g.,* adjustments to bag limits, seasons, fish size; common pool trimester TAC distributions; and creation of a new sector.

(b) * * *

(1) *Specifications process and specifications package.* The Council shall specify OFL, ABC, ACLs, and TALs for each small-mesh multispecies stock in accordance with the following process.

(i) The Whiting PDT shall recommend to the Whiting Oversight Committee and Council specifications including the OFL, ABC, ACL, and TAL for each small-mesh multispecies stock for a period of up to 5 years. The Whiting PDT and the Council shall follow the process in paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(4) of this section for setting these specifications.

* * * * *

(iii) The Whiting PDT may also recommend to the Whiting Oversight Committee and Council changes to stock status determination criteria and associated thresholds based on the best scientific information available, including information from peer-reviewed stock assessments of small-mesh multispecies. These adjustments may be included in the Council's specifications for the small-mesh multispecies fishery.

* * * * *

(3) [Reserved]

(4) * * *

(i) The Whiting PDT shall prepare a specification package, including a SAFE Report, at least every 5 years and present to the Council recommended specifications as defined in paragraph (a) of this section for up to 5 fishing years. The specifications package shall be the primary vehicle for the presentation of all updated biological and socio-economic information regarding the small-mesh multispecies fishery. The specifications package shall provide source data for any adjustments to the management measures that may be needed to continue to meet the goals and objectives of the FMP. The specifications package may include modifications to the OFL, ABC, ACL, TAL, possession limits, and in-season possession limit triggers.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) After a management action has been initiated, the Council shall develop and analyze appropriate management actions over the span of at least two Council meetings. The Council shall provide the public with advance notice of the availability of both the proposals and the analyses and opportunity to comment on them prior to and at the second Council meeting. The Council's recommendation on adjustments or additions to management measures, other than to address gear conflicts, must come from one or more of the following categories: DAS changes; effort monitoring; data reporting; possession limits; gear restrictions; closed areas; permitting restrictions; crew limits; minimum fish sizes;

onboard observers; minimum hook size and hook style; the use of crucifer in the hook-gear fishery; sector requirements; recreational fishing measures; area closures and other appropriate measures to mitigate marine mammal entanglements and interactions; description and identification of EFH; fishing gear management measures to protect EFH; designation of habitat areas of particular concern within EFH; changes to the SBRM, including the CV-based performance standard, the means by which discard data are collected/obtained, fishery stratification, the process for prioritizing observer sea-day allocations, reports, and/or industry-funded observers or observer set aside programs; adjustments to specification frequency; management measures in the specification setting process; adjustments to in-season adjustment authority; any annual reports or reviews and any adjustments to their requirements; and any other management measures currently included in the FMP.

* * * * *

(5) *In-season adjustments.* The specifications and management measures identified under specifications actions established pursuant to this section may be adjusted by NMFS to achieve conservation and management objectives, after consulting with the Council, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Any adjustments must be consistent with the Northeast Multispecies FMP objectives and other FMP provisions.

* * * * *

■ 4. In § 648.96:

■ a. Revise paragraph (a) introductory text;

■ b. Revise paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3)(i), and (c)(1) introductory text; and

■ c. Add paragraphs (f) and (g).

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 648.96 FMP review, specification, and framework adjustment process.

(a) *Review and adjustment process.* The NEFMC and MAFMC shall monitor the status of the monkfish fishery and resource.

* * * * *

(2) *Adjustment Process.* The PDT may meet to discuss the monkfish fishery in relation to the goals and objectives specified in the Monkfish FMP. The PDT provides guidance to the NEFMC and MAFMC regarding the need to adjust management measures to better achieve the FMP's goals and objectives. After considering the PDT's guidance, the Council may submit to NMFS its recommendations for changes to management measures, as appropriate, through the annual framework adjustment process specified in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the in-season framework adjustment process specified in paragraph (b) of this section, or through an amendment to the FMP.

(3) * * *

(i) If necessary, the Councils may develop adjustments to management measures to achieve the annual catch target (ACT) for the upcoming fishing year, and may develop other management options to better achieve the goals and objectives of the Monkfish FMP, which may include a preferred option. The Councils must demonstrate thorough analysis and documentation that any options they develop are expected to meet the goals and objectives of the Monkfish FMP. Additionally, if necessary, based on the recommendation of the NEFMC's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Councils may recommend measures to revise the ABCs and ACLs for the upcoming fishing year(s) as described in paragraph (c) of this section.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) The Councils or the PDT may develop options for setting ABC, ACL, and OFL for each monkfish stock, as necessary, as part of the adjustment process specified in paragraph (a) of this section, or as otherwise deemed necessary following the in-season adjustment process specified in paragraph (b) of this section. These options shall be submitted to the SSC for consideration. The Councils or the PDT may recommend to the SSC that ABC, ACL, and OFL are specified for each monkfish stock for up to 5 years.

* * * * *

(f) *Specifications.*

(1) *Monkfish Oversight Committee recommendations.* If necessary, based on the review described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the Monkfish Oversight Committee may develop specifications for the Monkfish FMP and recommend them to the Councils.

(2) Council recommendations. The Councils shall review these recommendations and, after considering public comments, shall recommend appropriate specifications for up to 5 years to NMFS. NMFS shall approve, disapprove, or partially approve the specifications recommended by the Councils and publish the approved specifications in the **Federal Register** in accordance with the APA.

(3) *Measures that may be included in specifications.* Specifications may include:

(i) OFLs, ABCs, ACLs, ACTs, and TALs;

(ii) Adjustments to status determination criteria;

(iii) Any measures necessary to ensure that the specifications will not be exceeded, including but not limited to:

(A) Accountability measures,

(B) Commercial DAS, minimum fish size, trip limits, seasons, blocks of time out of the fishery that a vessel must declare that it will not participate in the fishery, and landing ratios (*e.g.,* liver-to-monkfish and tail-to-whole conversions),

(C) Recreational possession limits, minimum fish size, and seasons;

(iv) Allocations and effort controls for the RSA program.

(g) *In-season adjustments.* The specifications and management measures identified under specifications actions established pursuant to this section may be adjusted by NMFS to achieve conservation and management objectives, after consulting with the Councils, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Any adjustments must be consistent with the Monkfish FMP objectives and other FMP provisions.

■ 5. In § 648.200, revise paragraphs (a), (c), and (e) to read as follows:

§ 648.200 Specifications.

(a) The Atlantic Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) shall meet at least every 3 years, but no later than July of the year before new specifications are implemented, with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (Commission) Atlantic Herring Technical Committee (TC) to develop and recommend, if necessary, the following specifications for a period of up to 5 years for consideration by the New England Fishery Management Council's Atlantic Herring Oversight Committee: Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), Annual Catch Limit (ACL), Optimum yield (OY), domestic annual harvest (DAH), domestic annual processing (DAP), U.S. at-sea processing (USAP), border transfer (BT), the sub-ACL for each management area, including seasonal periods as specified at § 648.201(d) and modifications to sub-ACLs as specified at § 648.201(f), the amount to be set aside for the RSA (from 0 to 3 percent of the sub-ACL from any management area), and river herring and shad catch caps, as specified in § 648.201(a)(4). Recommended specifications shall be presented to the New England Fishery Management Council.

(1) The PDT shall meet with the Commission's TC to review the status of

the stock and the fishery and prepare a Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report at least every 3 years. The Herring PDT will meet at least once during interim years to review the status of the stock relative to the overfishing definition if information is available to do so. When conducting a 3-year review and preparing a SAFE Report, the PDT/TC will recommend to the Council/Commission any necessary adjustments to the specifications for up to 5 years.

(2) If the Council determines, based on information provided by the PDT/TC or other stock-related information, that the specifications should be adjusted during the up to 5-year time period, it can do so through the same process outlined in this section during one or both of the interim years.

* * * * *

(c) The Atlantic Herring Oversight Committee shall review the recommendations of the PDT and shall consult with the Commission's Herring Board. Based on these recommendations and any public comment received, the Herring Oversight Committee shall recommend to the Council appropriate specifications for up to a 5-year period. The Council shall review these recommendations and, after considering public comment, shall recommend appropriate up to 5-year specifications to NMFS. NMFS shall review the recommendations, consider any comments received from the Commission, and publish notification in the **Federal Register** proposing up to 5-year specifications. If the proposed specifications differ from those recommended by the Council, the reasons for any differences shall be clearly stated and the revised specifications must satisfy the criteria set forth in paragraph (b) of this section.

* * * * *

(e) *In-season adjustments.* The specifications and management measures identified under specifications actions established pursuant to this section may be adjusted by NMFS to achieve conservation and management objectives, after consulting with the Council, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Any adjustments must be consistent with the Atlantic Herring FMP objectives and other FMP provisions.

* * * * *

■ 6. In § 648.206, revise paragraphs (b)(38) and (39), and add paragraphs (b)(40) through (43) to read as follows:

§ 648.206 Framework provisions.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(38) Modifications to the ABC control rule, including, but not limited to, control rule parameters, if a quantitative stock assessment is not available, if the projections are producing ABCs that are not justified or consistent with available information, or if the stock requires a rebuilding program;

(39) Adjustments to specification frequency;

(40) Management measures in the specification setting process;

(41) Adjustments to in-season adjustment authority;

(42) Annual reports or reviews and any adjustments to their requirements; and

(43) Any other measure currently included in the FMP.

* * * * *

■ 7. In § 648.260, revise paragraphs (a)(4) and (5) and add paragraph (a)(7) to read as follows:

§ 648.260 Specifications.

(a) * * *

(4) The PDT, after its review of the available information on the status of the stock and the fishery, shall recommend to the Council, every 1 to 5 years, any measures necessary to assure that the specifications will not be exceeded, as well as changes to the appropriate specifications.

(5) Taking into account the PDT review and/or SAFE Report described in paragraph (b) of this section, the advice of the SSC, and any other relevant information, the Red Crab PDT may also recommend to the Red Crab Committee and Council changes to stock status determination criteria and associated thresholds based on the best scientific information available, including information from peer-reviewed stock assessments of red crab. These adjustments may be included in the Council's specifications for the red crab fishery.

* * * * *

(7) The specifications and management measures identified under specifications actions established pursuant to this section may be adjusted by NMFS to achieve conservation and management objectives, after consulting with the Council, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Any adjustments must be consistent with the Red Crab FMP objectives and other FMP provisions.

■ 8. In § 648.320:

■ a. Revise paragraph (a) introductory text;

■ b. Remove and reserve paragraph (a)(1);

■ c. Revise paragraphs (a)(2), (4), (5), and (6);

■ d. Add paragraph (a)(8); and

■ e. Remove and reserve paragraph (b)(2).

The revisions and addition read as follows:

§ 648.320 Skate FMP review and monitoring.

(a) *Specifications process.* The Council shall monitor the status of the skate fishery and resource.

(1) [Reserved]

(2) The Skate PDT shall provide guidance to the Skate Committee and the Council regarding the need to adjust measures in the Skate FMP to better achieve the FMP's objectives. After considering guidance, the Council may submit to NMFS its recommendations for changes to management measures, as appropriate, through the specifications process described in this section, the framework process specified in § 648.321, or through an amendment to the FMP.

* * * * *

(4) Based on the annual review described above and/or the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report described in paragraph (b) of this section, recommendations for acceptable biological catch (ABC) from the Scientific and Statistical Committee, and any other relevant information, the Skate PDT shall recommend to the Skate Committee and Council the following annual specifications for harvest of skates: An annual catch limit (ACL) for the skate complex set less than or equal to ABC; an annual catch target (ACT) for the skate complex set less than or equal to 90 percent of the ACL; and total allowable landings (TAL) necessary to meet the objectives of the FMP in each fishing year (May 1–April 30), specified for a period of up to 5 fishing years.

(5) Specification action measures. Measures that can be included in a specifications action, may include, but are not limited to:

(i) Possession limits in the wing and bait fisheries;

(ii) In-season possession limit triggers for the wing and bait fisheries;

(iii) Required adjustments to in-season possession limit trigger percentages or the ACL–ACT buffer, based on the accountability measures specified at § 648.323;

(iv) Changes, as appropriate, to the SBRM, including the CV-based performance standard, the means by which discard data are collected/obtained, fishery stratification, the process for prioritizing observer sea-day allocations, reports, and/or industry-funded observers or observer set aside programs; and

(v) Adjustments to status determination criteria.

(6) The Skate PDT may also recommend changes to stock status determination criteria and associated thresholds, including methods for stock status determinations based on the best scientific information available, including information from peer-reviewed stock assessments of the skate complex and its component species. These adjustments may be included in the Council's specifications for the skate fisheries.

* * * * *

(8) The specifications and management measures identified under specifications actions established pursuant to this section may be adjusted by NMFS to achieve conservation and management objectives, after consulting with the Council, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Any adjustments must be consistent with the NE Skate Complex FMP objectives and other FMP provisions.

(b) * * *

(1) * * *

(2) [Reserved]

■ 9. In § 648.321:

■ a. Revise paragraphs (b) introductory text, (b)(23) and (24); and

■ b. Add paragraphs (b)(25) through (29).

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 648.321 Framework adjustment process.

* * * * *

(b) *Framework adjustment action measures.* Measures that may be changed or implemented through framework action, provided that any corresponding management adjustments can also be implemented through a framework adjustment, are:

* * * * *

(23) Changes to catch monitoring procedures;

(24) Changes, as appropriate, to the SBRM, including the CV-based performance standard, the means by which discard data are collected/obtained, fishery stratification, the process for prioritizing observer sea-day allocations, reports, and/or industry-funded observers or observer set aside programs;

(25) Adjustments to status determination criteria;

(26) Adjustments to specification frequency;

(27) Management measures in the specification setting process;

(28) Adjustments to in-season adjustment authority; and

(29) Annual reports or reviews and any adjustments to their requirements.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 2026–13809 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–P

Notices

Federal Register
Vol. 91, No. 129
Wednesday, July 8, 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–LP–25–0485]

United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is seeking public comments concerning revisions to the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef. This request for comments stems from an American Wagyu Association petition, which requested that AMS consider adding marbling degrees to the USDA Prime grade for beef to better characterize modern genetics, which are not always differentiated within the current marbling degrees. AMS is also soliciting public comment on whether to eliminate the skeletal maturity requirement for carcasses determined by dentition to be under 30 months of age. Scientific research and data on beef tenderness suggest that the skeletal maturity requirement could be eliminated.

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 8, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments electronically at *https://www.regulations.gov* or to Chad Nelson, USDA Service Center, AMS, Livestock and Poultry Program, 451 East Deere Street, West Point, NE 68788. All comments should reference docket number AMS–LP–25–0485, the date of submission, and the page number of this issue of the **Federal Register**. All comments received will be posted without change, including any personal information provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information, please contact Chad Nelson, National Meat Supervisor, Livestock and Poultry Program, phone (402) 281–8704; or email at *chad.nelson2@usda.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 203(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*), directs and authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture ''to develop and improve standards of quality, condition, quantity, grade, and packaging, and recommend and demonstrate such standards in order to encourage uniformity and consistency in commercial practices.'' AMS is committed to carrying out this authority in a manner that facilitates the marketing of agricultural commodities. While the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef (carcass beef grade standards) do not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations, they, along with other official Standards, are maintained by USDA and can be found at *https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards.* Physical copies of official United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef are also available upon request. To propose changes to the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef, AMS does so in accordance with 7 CFR part 36, initially promulgated on August 13, 1997, in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 43430).

Background

The carcass beef grade standards and the associated voluntary, fee-for-service beef grading service program are authorized under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621 *et seq.*). The primary purpose of Federal grade standards, including the carcass beef grade standards, is to divide the population of a commodity into uniform groups (of similar quality, yield, value, *etc.*) to facilitate marketing. In concert, the Federal voluntary, fee-for-service grading program is designed to provide an independent, objective determination whether a given product is in conformance with the applicable official Federal standard. In the case of beef, when it is voluntarily graded to the carcass beef grade standards under the beef grading service, the official grade consists of a quality grade and/or a yield grade.

The quality grades are intended to identify differences in the palatability or eating satisfaction of cooked beef, principally through the characteristics of intramuscular flecks of fat (known as marbling) and physiological maturity groupings. The principal official USDA quality grades for young (maturity groups A and B) cattle and carcasses are Prime, Choice, and Select, in descending order in terms of historic market value. USDA recognizes that the beef standards must remain relevant to be of greatest value to stakeholders and, therefore, recommendations for changes in the standards may be initiated by USDA or by interested parties at any time to achieve that goal.

For beef, USDA quality grades provide a simple, effective means of describing and differentiating product quality that is easily understood by both buyers and sellers. By identifying separate and distinct levels of quality, these grades enable buyers to obtain the kind of beef that meets their needs. For example, certain restaurants may choose to only sell officially-graded USDA Prime beef to provide their customers with a product that meets a very consistent and high level of palatability and eating satisfaction. At the same time, grades are important in transmitting information to cattle producers to help ensure informed marketing decisions are made. For example, the market preference and price paid for a particular grade of beef is communicated to cattle producers so they can adjust their production accordingly. In such cases, if the price premiums being paid for USDA Prime or Choice beef merits producers making the investments required in cattle genetics and feeding to produce more high-quality beef products, then such marketing decisions can be made with justification.

Marbling

The current carcass beef grade standards define the USDA Prime grade with four degrees of marbling: Slightly Abundant, Moderately Abundant, Abundant, and Very Abundant. The number of carcasses grading as USDA Prime has increased over the past several years, increasing from 6.2% in 2017 to 12.2% in 2025.[1] Also, carcasses

[1] Based upon aggregated grading data collected from beef grading facilities that employ AMS services.

grading as USDA Prime are exhibiting a wider range of marbling degrees than the four degrees of marbling.[2]

Advancements in beef production through genetics, feeding regimes, husbandry, and other practices have led to increases in carcass weights, marbling scores, and more high-quality beef for consumers. As a result, the American Wagyu Association has petitioned AMS to review the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass beef to explore the possibility of adding marbling degrees to the USDA Prime grade for beef.

Maturity Grouping Requirements

Carcass beef grade standards use dentition or age verification to determine maturity groupings, along with skeletal and lean (physiological) maturity. The maturity groupings were never intended to be a definitive method to determine the age of cattle at the time of slaughter; instead, the intention was to use them to predict beef palatability. Historically, the maturity groupings have been roughly correlated to different age categories. Maturity grouping A was correlated with beef from cattle between 9 and 30 months of age at time of slaughter, maturity grouping B was correlated with beef from cattle between 30 and 42 months of age at time of slaughter, maturity grouping C was correlated with beef from cattle between 42 and 72 months of age at time of slaughter, maturity grouping D was correlated with beef from cattle between 72 and 96 months of age at time of slaughter, and maturity grouping E was correlated with beef from cattle more than 96 months of age at time of slaughter. However, these are rough approximations that are influenced by other factors including diet, growth promotion administration, calving, breed, and a variety of environmental factors. Therefore, cattle that are younger than 30 months of age may have a physiological maturity of B or greater due to factors such as those listed above.

Due to food safety requirements, dentition is used on all slaughtered cattle to determine whether their age at the time of slaughter was less than or greater than 30 months of age. Cattle older than 30 months of age must have specific risk materials (*e.g.,* vertebral column) removed from their carcasses before the sale of the resulting beef cuts. Age verification involves providing proper paperwork or other proof of an animal's actual age (*i.e.,* less than 30 months of age). It is also used for other purposes, including to satisfy foreign market requirements for U.S. beef from cattle under a specified age.

Data and scientific information indicate that carcasses from grain-fed steers and heifers that are deemed less than 30 months of age, based on dentition, are similar in palatability to maturity group A carcasses determined via physiological maturity.[3] Thus, these carcasses could be classified as maturity group A for grading purposes even though the physiological maturity characteristics of maturity group B or an older maturity group may be present. Revising the carcass beef grade standards to allow dentition and age verification to have priority over physiological maturity would allow for an alternate method of classifying beef carcasses into maturity groupings. Subsequently, additional carcasses would qualify for the higher USDA grades of Prime, Choice, and Select without a significant reduction in the consistency of those grades in predicting palatability.

Additional Matters

AMS also understands that there are ongoing discussions within the beef industry regarding the effectiveness of the current yield grade calculations used to predict the yield of boneless retail cuts derived from beef carcasses. Though scientific studies have not yet reached a conclusion, AMS acknowledges that the results from those studies may lead to a future request to revise the grade standards. Therefore, respondents are not precluded from submitting comments on this subject.

Request for Comments

AMS is soliciting comments, including data, recommendations, and other information, from stakeholders about potential changes to the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef. Comments may include any current and/or ongoing research or industry practice that has relevance to the carcass beef grade standards. AMS also invites comments on how those changes should be implemented in the Federal voluntary, fee-for-service grading programs.

AMS will evaluate comments received and consider any next steps supported by stakeholders, including proposing revisions to the standards. If revisions are made, AMS will publish a draft of the updated United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef in the **Federal Register** for an additional comment period.

AMS invites comment on the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef and is specifically interested in responses to the following questions:

1. How could the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef be updated to better align with current and future advances in technology?
2. Are there any beef grades or marbling degrees that have become irrelevant or any new marbling degrees that should be added? If so, how many and what names should be used?
3. For the purposes of official USDA quality grading, would removing the supplemental physiological maturity requirements for under 30 months of age carcasses better suit the needs of stakeholders?
4. Is there information in general which should be added to or removed from the current United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef?
5. How could the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef be updated to reflect the current marketing of beef?
6. How could the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef be updated to be more useful for the spectrum of producers and processors?
7. How could the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef be updated to be more useful to volume food buyers and those engaged in institutional purchases?
8. How could the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef be updated to be more meaningful to end-consumers?
9. How could the United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef be updated to allow U.S. beef to be more competitively marketed in the international marketplace?
10. Are there any other recommendations, suggestions, or ideas that would be relevant for AMS to consider?

Melissa Bailey,

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

[FR Doc. 2026–13761 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–02–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Utah Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Cancellation

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Notice; cancellation of meeting.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights published a notice in the **Federal**

[2] *Ibid.*

[3] Carcass sampling and lab analysis done by Colorado State University, Dr. Belk, *et al.*

Register concerning a meeting of the Utah Advisory Committee. The meeting scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, has been cancelled. The notice is in the **Federal Register** on Friday, May 22, 2026, in FR Document Number 2026–10250 on page 30275.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brooke Peery, Designated Federal Officer, at *bpeery@usccr.gov* or (202) 701–1376.

Dated: July 2, 2026.

David Mussatt,

Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

[FR Doc. 2026–13732 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the South Carolina 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 South Carolina Advisory Committee (Committee) to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a public briefing via Zoom. The purpose is for the Committee to hear testimony as part of their study on Occupational Licensing.

DATES: Wednesday, August 12, 2026, from 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via Zoom.

Registration Link (Audio/Visual): https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_gMU_DDVVRcOJV0x5KdO9rg.

Join by Phone (Audio Only): 1–833–435–1820 USA Toll Free; Webinar ID: 165 143 6764#.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Victoria Moreno, Designated Federal Officer, at *vmoreno@usccr.gov* or (434) 515–0204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Committee meeting is available to the public through the registration link above. Any interested members of the public may attend this meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make oral comments 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 meeting platform. To request additional accommodations, please email *csanders@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 submitted via the following form: *https://wkf.ms/4n7DKT3.* Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at (434) 515–0204.

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.box.com/s/uc7rr59hi2y8p1uapgemt6y1opr61zyv.* 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 *csanders@usccr.gov.*

Agenda: Will be available at the following link in advance of the meeting date—*https://usccr.box.com/s/ra8nqvhw87dxi54awetux54vmkuym4b4.*

Dated: July 2, 2026.

David Mussatt,

Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

[FR Doc. 2026–13733 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S–253–2026]

Approval of Expansion of Subzone 18G; Tesla, Inc.; Tracy, California

On May 12, 2026, the Executive Secretary of the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board docketed an application submitted by the City of San Jose, grantee of FTZ 18, requesting an expansion of Subzone 18G subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 18, on behalf of Tesla, Inc., in Tracy, California. Although the docketing notice referred to the expanded site as Site 27, the actual site number will be Site 28.

The application was processed in accordance with the FTZ Act and Regulations, including notice in the **Federal Register** inviting public comment (91 FR 27242–27243, May 14, 2026). The FTZ staff examiner reviewed the application and determined that it meets the criteria for approval. Pursuant to the authority delegated to the FTZ Board Executive Secretary (15 CFR 400.36(f)), the application to expand Subzone 18G to include Site 28 was approved on July 2, 2026, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including section 400.13, and further subject to FTZ 18's 2,000-acre activation limit.

Dated: July 2, 2026.

Elizabeth Whiteman,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–13797 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–533–883]

Glycine From India: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024; Correction

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) published notice in the **Federal Register** of June 12, 2026, in which Commerce issued the final results of the 2023–2024 administrative review of the antidumping duty (AD) order on glycine from India. In that notice, Commerce misspelled the name of Paras Intermediates Private Limited in the rate table.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tyler Weinhold or Harrison Tanchuck, 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) 482–1121 or (202) 482–7421, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 12, 2026, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** the final results of the 2023–2024 administrative review of the AD order

on glycine from India.[1] In that notice, Commerce incorrectly listed ''Paras Intermediaries Private Limited'' as one of the company names in the rate table when it should have listed ''Paras Intermediates Private Limited.''

Correction

In the **Federal Register** of June 12, 2026, in FR Doc 2026–11863, on page 35661, in the third column, correct the exporter/producer name found in the rate table to ''Paras Intermediates Private Limited.''

Notification to Interested Parties

This notice is issued and published in accordance with sections 751(a)(1), 751(a)(2)(B), and 777(i)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(5).

Dated: July 1, 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. 2026–13780 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

UChicago Argonne LLC et. al; Application(s) for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89–651, as amended by Pub. L. 106–36; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be postmarked on or before July 28, 2026. Address written comments to Statutory Import Programs Staff, Room 40005, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Please also email a copy of those comments to *Sun.Cho@trade.gov.*

Docket Number: 26–034. Applicant: UChicago Argonne LLC, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Lemont, Illinois 60439. Instrument: Taylor Reactor. Manufacturer: Laminar Co. Ltd., Republic of Korea. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to obtain the precursors (pCAM) of lithium-ion and sodium-ion battery cathode materials. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: September 24, 2025.

Docket Number: 26–042. Applicant: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, One Cyclotron Road, Berkeley, CA 94720. Instrument: LS Spectrometer. Manufacturer: LS Spectrometer, Switzerland. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used to study battery electrolyte solutions, liquid crystals, and non-equilibrium ion transport. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: August 7, 2025.

Docket Number: 26–047. Applicant: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, One Cyclotron Road, Berkeley, CA 94720. Instrument: JIB–4700F Multi-Beam System. Manufacturer: JEOL Ltd., Japan. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to study macromolecular organization within a cell. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: September 17, 2025.

Docket Number: 26–052. Applicant: Iowa State University, Ames National Laboratory, 2408 Pammel Drive, Ames, IA 50011. Instrument: Gyrotron and DNP Probe. Manufacturer: Bruker AG, Switzerland. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used to upgrade an existing nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer into a dynamic nuclear polarization NMR spectrometer. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: September 18, 2025.

Docket Number: 26–057. Applicant: UChicago Argonne LLC, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Lemont, IL 60439. Instrument: Cryoprobe. Manufacturer: Bruker Biospin Corporation, Switzerland. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to advance the sensitivity of the spectroscopy and to study diamagnetic or paramagnetic materials appropriate for nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: October 2, 2025.

Docket Number: 26–072. Applicant: UChicago Argonne LLC, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Lemont, IL 60439. Instrument: Laser Rack System. Manufacturer: Toptica Photonics, Germany. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used to study the residence time or age of groundwater via isotopic analysis of gas extracted from the water. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: July 28, 2025.

Docket Number: 26–077. Applicant: UChicago Argonne LLC, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Lemont, IL 60439. Instrument: High Energy Small Pixel Detector. Manufacturer: PI-Tecnologia Ltda, Brazil. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used to study high-energy X-ray interactions with various materials and phenomena including advanced materials and nanostructures, biological and soft matter systems. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: September 12, 2025.

Docket Number: 26–078. Applicant: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 1 Cyclotron Road, Berkeley, CA 94720. Instrument: JEM–3300 CRYO Arm (Electron Miscroscope usable at cryogenic conditions). Manufacturer: JEOL Ltd., Japan. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used to study the structure of biological samples and material systems at high-resolutions down to the atomic scale. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: September 18, 2025.

Docket Number: 26–084. Applicant: UChicago Argonne LLC, 9700 South Cass Avenue, Lemont, IL 60439. Instrument: Control Platform and Accessories. Manufacturer: Imperix Ltd., Switzerland. Intended Use: The instrument is intended to be used to assemble a microgrid power hardware in the loop simulation to enhance reliability and resilience of the electric power grid. Justification for Duty-Free Entry: According to the applicant, there are no instruments of the same general

[1] *See Glycine from India: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024,* 91 FR 35661 (June 12, 2026).

category manufactured in the United States. Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs: October 6, 2025.

Dated: June 30, 2026.

Lana Nigro,

Acting Director, Subsidies Enforcement, Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2026–13789 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–570–235]

N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide From the People's Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

DATES: Applicable July 8, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristen Johnson, 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) 482–4793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On May 27, 2026, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) initiated a countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of imports of n-cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-sulfenamide from the People's Republic of China.[1] Currently, the preliminary determination in this CVD investigation is due no later than July 31, 2026.

Postponement of Preliminary Determination

Section 703(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), requires Commerce to issue the preliminary determination in a CVD investigation within 65 days after the date on which Commerce initiated the investigation. However, section 703(c)(1) of the Act permits Commerce to postpone the preliminary determination until no later than 130 days after the date on which Commerce initiated the investigation if: (A) the petitioner makes a timely request for a postponement; or (B) Commerce concludes that the parties concerned are cooperating, that the investigation is extraordinarily complicated, and that additional time is necessary to make a preliminary determination. Under 19 CFR 351.205(e), the petitioner must submit a request for postponement 25 days or more before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination and must state the reasons for the request. Commerce will grant the request unless it finds compelling reasons to deny the request.

On June 30, 2026, the petitioner[2] submitted a timely request that Commerce postpone the preliminary determination in this CVD investigation.[3] The petitioner requests postponement to ensure that Commerce has sufficient time to issue supplemental questionnaires and to evaluate all relevant subsidy programs before reaching a preliminary determination.[4] In accordance with 19 CFR 351.205(e), the petitioner has stated the reasons for requesting a postponement of the preliminary determination, and Commerce finds no compelling reason to deny the request. Therefore, in accordance with section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act, Commerce is postponing the deadline for the preliminary determination to no later than 130 days after the date on which this investigation was initiated, *i.e.,* October 5, 2026.[5] Pursuant to section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(1), the deadline for the final determination of this investigation will continue to be 75 days after the date of the preliminary determination.

Notification to Interested Parties

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(f)(1).

Dated: July 1, 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. 2026–13792 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

[1] *See N-Cyclohexylbenzothiazole-2-Sulfenamide from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation,* 91 FR 32946 (June 2, 2026) (*Initiation Notice*).

[2] The petitioner is LANXESS Corporation.

[3] *See* Petitioner's Letter, ''Request to Fully Extend the Preliminary Determination,'' dated June 30, 2026.

[4] *Id.* at 2.

[5] Postponing the preliminary determination to 130 days after initiation would place the deadline on Sunday, October 4, 2026. Commerce's practice dictates that where a deadline falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the appropriate deadline is the next business day. *See Notice of Clarification: Application of* ''*Next Business Day*'' *Rule for Administrative Determination Deadlines Pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930, As Amended,* 70 FR 24533 (May 10, 2005).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–533–824]

Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip From India: 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 Cosmo First Limited (Cosmo), the sole mandatory respondent in this administrative review, made sales of polyethylene terephthalate film, sheet, and strip (PET film) from India at less than normal value during the period of review July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Based on the application of total adverse facts available (AFA), Commerce is assigning Cosmo a weighted-average dumping margin of 24.14 percent.

DATES: Applicable July 8, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacob Saude, AD/CVD Operations, Office VII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482- 0981.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On January 5, 2026, Commerce published the *Preliminary Results* of this administrative review.[1] On April 24, 2026, Commerce extended the deadline for issuing the final results in this proceeding by 53 days.[2] Accordingly, the final results of this review are now due on July 1, 2026. For a complete description of the events that followed the *Preliminary Results, see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.[3] Commerce conducted this review in

[1] *Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from India: Preliminary Results and Rescission, in Part, of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024,* 91 FR 969 (January 9, 2026) (*Preliminary Results*), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

[2] *See* Commerce's Memo ''Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from India: Extension of Deadline for Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2023–2024,'' dated April 24, 2026.

[3] *See*Memorandum. ''Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Final Results of Anidumping Duty Adminstrative Review of the Antidumping Duty Order on Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from India; 2023–2024,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Issues and Decision Memoandum).

accordance with section 751 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).

Scope of the Order [4]

The products covered by the scope of the *Order* are PET film from India. For a complete description of the scope, *see* the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

Analysis of Comments Received

The sole issue raised in the case and rebuttal briefs is addressed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum, and is listed in the appendix to this notice. The Issues and Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (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/frnotices.*

Changes Since the Preliminary Results

Based on a review of the record and comments received, Commerce made no changes to the *Preliminary Results.*

Final Results of Review

Commerce determines that the following weighted-average dumping margin exists for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024:

Producer/exporter	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
Cosmo First Limited	24.14

Disclosure

Normally, Commerce discloses the calculations performed in connection with the final results of review 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**. However, because Commerce applied total AFA to Cosmo in these final results, there are no calculations to disclose.

Assessment Rates

Commerce will determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries in this review, in accordance with section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1).

Commerce intends to issue appropriate assessment instructions directly to CBP no earlier than 35 days after the date of publication of the final results of this administrative 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 subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of these final results, as provided by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) the cash deposit rate for Cosmo will be 24.14 percent; (2) for previously reviewed or investigated companies not listed above, 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, a prior review, or the original investigation but the producer is, the cash deposit rate will be the 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 5.71 percent, the all-others rate established in the underlying investigation.[5] These cash deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Notification to Importers

This notice also 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 (APO)

This notice also serves as a 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/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

These final results are being issued and published in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.213(h).

Dated: July 1, 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. Changes Since the *Preliminary Results*
V. Discussion of the Issue
Comment 1: Whether to Apply Total Adverse Facts Available (AFA) to Cosmo
VI. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2026–13795 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of an open meeting of a Federal Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC) will hold an in-person meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. The meeting is open to the public with registration instructions provided below. This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed topics for the meeting.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2026 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The deadline for members of the public to register to participate, including requests to make comments during the meeting and for auxiliary aids, or to submit written comments for dissemination prior to the meeting, is 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, July 10, 2026.

[4] *See Notice of Amended Final Antidumping Duty Determination of Sales at Less than Fair Value and Antidumping Duty Order: Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from India,* 67 FR 44175 (July 1, 2002) (*Order*).

[5] *See Order,* 6767 FR at 44146.

Members of the public must register by that date to participate. This meeting has a limited number of spaces for members of the public to attend in-person. Requests to participate in-person will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Members of the public who wish to participate should register through the registration portal: *https://www.trade.gov/ettac.* Requests for auxiliary aids or to make comments during the meeting, or submit written comments for dissemination prior to the meeting, should be submitted via email to Ms. Megan Hyndman, Office of Energy & Environmental Industries, International Trade Administration, at *Megan.Hyndman@trade.gov.*

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in-person in the Commerce Research Library of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Megan Hyndman, Office of Energy & Environmental Industries, International Trade Administration (Phone: 202–482–1297; email: *Megan.Hyndman@trade.gov*).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ETTAC is mandated by Section 2313(c) of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988, as amended, 15 U.S.C. 4728(c), to advise the Environmental Trade Promotion Working Group of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee on the development and administration of programs to expand U.S. exports of environmental technologies, goods, and services and products that comply with U.S. environmental, safety, and related requirements. The ETTAC's current charter term is in effect through August 6, 2026.

On Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT, the ETTAC will hold the eleventh meeting of its current charter term. During the meeting, committee members will present the recommendation letters that the ETTAC has submitted during the current charter term and hear updates from key agencies on U.S. Government activities. An agenda and any supplemental materials will be made available one week prior to the meeting at *https://www.trade.gov/ettac.*

The meeting will be open to the public, and time will be permitted for public comment before the close of the meeting. Members of the public seeking to attend the meeting are required to register by Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EDT, via the registration portal at *https://www.trade.gov/ettac.* This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to *Megan.Hyndman@trade.gov* or (202) 482–1297 no less than one week prior to the meeting. Requests received after this date will be accepted, but it may not be possible to accommodate them.

Written comments concerning ETTAC affairs are welcome any time before or after the meeting. To be considered during the meeting, written comments must be received by Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EDT to ensure transmission to the members before the meeting. Draft minutes and other meeting materials will be available within 30 days of this meeting at *https://www.trade.gov/ettac.*

Dated: July 1, 2026.

Edward O'Malley,

Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries.

[FR Doc. 2026–13800 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–721–003]

Carbon and Alloy Steel Wire Rod From Algeria: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of carbon and alloy steel wire rod (wire rod) from Algeria. The period of investigation (POI) is January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable July 8, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Schueler or Joshua Nixon, 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) 482–9175 and (202) 482–8361, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 703(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this investigation on May 1, 2026.[1] The deadline for this preliminary determination is July 1, 2026.

For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.[2] A list of topics discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix II 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/frnotices.*

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is wire rod from Algeria. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, *see* Appendix I.

Scope Comments

In accordance with the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations,[3] the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.,* scope).[4] No interested party commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice.* Commerce is not preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice. See* the complete description of the scope in Appendix I to this notice.

Methodology

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 701 of the Act. For each of the subsidy programs found to be countervailable, Commerce preliminarily 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.[5] For a full description of the methodology underlying our preliminary determination, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

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[1] *See Carbon and Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Algeria: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation,* 91 FR 23397 (May 1, 2026) (*Initiation Notice*).

[2] *See* Memorandum, ''Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Affirmative Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Carbon and Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Algeria,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

[3] *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule,* 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

[4] *See Initiation Notice.*

[5] *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.

Commerce notes that, in making these findings, it relied on facts available and, because it finds that one or more respondents did not act to the best of their ability to respond to Commerce's requests for information, it drew an adverse inference where appropriate in selecting from among the facts otherwise available.[6] For further information, *see* the ''Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Adverse Inferences'' section in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

All-Others Rate

Sections 703(d) and 705(c)(5)(A) of the Act state that Commerce shall determine an estimated all-others rate for companies not individually examined. This rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated subsidy rates established for those companies individually investigated, excluding any zero and *de minimis* countervailable subsidy rates, and any rates determined entirely under section 776 of the Act.

Pursuant to section 705(c)(5)(A)(ii) of the Act, if the individual estimated countervailable subsidy rates established for all exporters and producers individually examined are zero, *de minimis,* or determined based entirely on facts otherwise available, Commerce may use any reasonable method to establish the estimated subsidy rate for all other producers and/or exporters. Commerce has preliminarily determined the individually estimated subsidy rate for the sole individually examined respondent entirely under section 776 of the Act. Consequently, as a reasonable method, Commerce is determining the all-others rate based on the rate determined for SPA Algerian Qatar Steel (AQS), the sole mandatory respondent, under section 776 of the Act, as this is the only rate available in this proceeding.[7] For a full description of the methodology underlying Commerce's analysis, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Preliminary Determination

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated countervailable subsidy rates exist:

Company	Subsidy rate (percent *ad valorem*)
SPA Algerian Qatar Steel	*73.33
All Others	73.33

*This rate is based on facts available with adverse inferences.

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 703(d)(2) of the Act, Commerce will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of entries of wire rod from Algeria, as described in Appendix I to this notice, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Further, pursuant to section 703(d)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.107(e), Commerce will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the estimated company-specific countervailable subsidy rate or the estimated all-others rate, as follows: (1) the cash deposit rate for the respondents listed above will be equal to the company-specific estimated individual countervailable subsidy rates determined in this preliminary determination; (2) if both the producer and exporter of the subject merchandise have company-specific estimated subsidy rates determined in this preliminary determination, and their rates differ, then the applicable cash deposit rate will be the higher of these two rates; (3) if either the producer or the exporter, but not both, of the subject merchandise have a company-specific estimated subsidy rate determined in this preliminary determination, the applicable cash deposit rate will be that company's company-specific rate; and (4) the cash deposit rate for all other producers and exporters will be equal to the estimated all-others subsidy rate.

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties in this preliminary determination within five days of its public announcement, or if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Consistent with 19 CFR 351.224(e), Commerce will analyze and, if appropriate, correct any timely allegations of significant ministerial errors by amending the preliminary determination. However, consistent with 19 CFR 351.224(d), Commerce will not consider incomplete allegations that do not address the significance standard under 19 CFR 351.224(g) following the preliminary determination. Instead, Commerce will address such allegations in the final determination together with issues raised in the case briefs or other written comments.

Verification

Because the non-responsive company did not participate in this investigation and because the Government of Algeria did not provide the information Commerce requested, Commerce preliminarily determines each of these parties have been uncooperative, and it will not conduct verification.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the preliminary determination.[8] 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.[9] Interested parties who submit case or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding must submit: (1) a table of contents listing each issue; and (2) a table of authorities.[10]

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.[11] Further, we request that interested parties limit their public, 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 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).[12]

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

[6] *See* sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act.

[7] *See, e.g., Melamine from Germany: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination,* 89 FR 97586 (December 9, 2024); *see also Overhead Door Counterbalance Torsion Springs from the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Final Affirmative Critical Circumstances Determination in Part,* 90 FR 39374 (August 15, 2025).

[8] *See* 19 CFR 351.309(c)(1)(i); *see also* 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements).

[9] *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*).

[10] *See* 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

[11] We use the term ''issue'' here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

[12] *See APO and Service Final Rule.*

Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, 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. 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.

U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) Notification

In accordance with section 703(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the ITC of its determination. However, no material injury determination is necessary in this countervailing duty investigation, pursuant to section 701(c)(1) of the Act, because the United States Trade Representative has determined that Algeria is not a ''Subsidies Agreement country'' within the meaning of section 701(b) of the Act.[13]

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 703(f) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: July 1, 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 covers certain hot-rolled products of carbon steel and alloy steel, in coils, of approximately circular cross section, less than 19.00 mm in actual solid cross-sectional diameter. Specifically excluded are steel products possessing the above-noted physical characteristics and meeting the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) definitions for (a) stainless steel; (b) tool steel; (c) high nickel steel; (d) ball bearing steel; or (e) concrete reinforcing bars and rods. Also excluded are free cutting steel (also known as free machining steel) products (*i.e.,* products that contain by weight one or more of the following elements: 0.1 percent or more of lead, 0.05 percent or more of bismuth, 0.08 percent or more of sulfur, more than 0.04 percent of phosphorus, more than 0.05 percent of selenium, or more than 0.01 percent of tellurium). All products meeting the physical description of subject merchandise that are not specifically excluded are included in this scope.

The products under investigation are currently classifiable under subheadings 7213.91.3011, 7213.91.3015, 7213.91.3020, 7213.91.3093, 7213.91.4500, 7213.91.6000, 7213.99.0030, 7227.20.0030, 7227.20.0080, 7227.90.6010, 7227.90.6020, 7227.90.6030, and 7227.90.6035 of the HTSUS. Products entered under subheadings 7213.90.0090 and 7227.90.6090 of HTSUS also may be included in this scope if they meet the physical description of subject merchandise above. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Injury Test
IV. Diversification of Algeria's Economy
V. Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Adverse Inferences
VI. Subsidies Valuation Information
VII. Analysis of Programs
VIII. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2026–13784 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–714–001]

Countervailing Duty Order of Phosphate Fertilizers From the Kingdom of Morocco: Temporary Duty Free Importation

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: On June 29, 2026, the President of the United States issued a declaration of emergency and authorization for temporary duty free importation of phosphate fertilizers (fertilizers) from the Kingdom of Morocco (Morocco), pursuant to section 318(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).[1] The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) is temporarily allowing exporters and/or importers to request that imports of fertilizers from Morocco, subject to the countervailing duty *Order,* be entered into the United States free of countervailing duties, pursuant to 19 CFR 358.[2]

DATES: Applicable July 8, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jacob Keller or Joshua Nixon, 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) 482–4849 or (202) 482–8361, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The President has declared that immediate action is necessary to ensure that United States farmers have a sufficient and timely supply of fertilizers during the planting and growing season to meet domestic food production needs and that producers in Morocco can supply fertilizers to the United States at this time.[3] The President directs the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to provide emergency relief under section 318 of the Act regarding imports of fertilizers from Morocco.[4] The Secretary ''may use or prescribe, the importation, free of the collection of duties and deposits of estimated duties, if applicable, under sections {701, 751, and 781 of the Act} of {fertilizers} of {Morocco}, and to temporarily extend during such 8-month period or the course of the emergency, as applicable, the time therein prescribed for the performance of any act related to such imports.'' [5] Accordingly, Commerce will consider written requests for the importation of fertilizers from Morocco free of countervailing duties, pursuant to section 318(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 358.103.

For a complete description of Commerce's implementation of the President's declaration, and the process by which parties may submit requests to Commerce for approval, *see* the Memorandum Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation.[6] A list of topics included in the Memorandum Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation is included as an appendix to this notice. The Memorandum

[13] *See Status of Algeria Under the Tariff Act of 1930, as Amended*, 90 FR 34334 (July 21, 2025).

[1] *See* Presidential Actions, Proclamations, ''Declaration of Emergency and Authorization for Temporary Duty Free Importation of Phosphate Fertilizer Morocco,'' dated June 29, 2026 (Proclamation) available at *https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/06/declaration-of-emergency-and-authorization-for-temporary-duty-free-importation-of-phosphate-fertilizer-morocco/.*

[2] *See Phosphate Fertilizers from the Kingdom of Morocco and the Russian Federation: Countervailing Duty Orders,* 86 FR 18037 (April 7, 2021) (*Order*).

[3] *See* Proclamation.

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Id.*

[6] *See* Memorandum, ''Countervailing Duty Order of Phosphate Fertilizers from the Kingdom of Morocco: Memorandum Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation,'' dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Memorandum Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation).

Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at *https://access.trade.gov.* In addition, a complete version of the Memorandum Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation can be accessed directly at *https://access.trade.gov/frnotices.*

Scope of the Order

The merchandise covered by the *Order* are phosphate fertilizers in all physical forms (*i.e.,* solid or liquid form), with or without coating or additives such as anti-caking agents from Morocco. For a complete description of the scope of the *Order, see* the Memorandum Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation.

Requirements for Duty Free Imports

Commerce requires all exporters and/or importers of fertilizers from Morocco seeking duty free entry for a shipment under this temporary waiver to file a written request to the Secretary.[7] The specific requirements of the request can be found at Appendix I of the Memorandum Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation. Any subject merchandise entered under 19 CFR 358.103(b) must enter the United States normally within 60 days after the date on which Commerce notifies the person who submitted the request or the merchandise will be subject to antidumping and/or countervailing duties, as applicable.[8]

Filing Requirements

All requests to Commerce must be filed electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's ACCESS.[9] Each submission must be placed on the record of the 2026 administrative review segment of the proceeding for the *Order* (C–714–001). Commerce is opening the 2026 administrative review segment for the purposes of efficiently collecting and processing these written requests, but consideration regarding whether Commerce shall conduct an administrative review covering the 2026 period of review is still subject to the applicable regulations, including a request for review in response to Commerce's notice of opportunity to request review pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213 and section 751 of the Act, *see* Appendix II of the Memorandum Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Notification

If Commerce determines to permit duty-free importation of fertilizers from Morocco, Commerce will notify the person who submitted the request, instruct CBP to allow entry of the merchandise identified in the request submitted without regard to countervailing duties, and post notification of the determination on Commerce's website (*i.e.,* ACCESS).[10]

Notification to Interested Parties

Interested parties that wish to file a request for duty free imports and be added to the public service list for this segment of the proceeding must file a letter of appearance in accordance with 19 CFR 351.103(d)(1). Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective order (APO) in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(b). Instructions for filing such applications may be found on Commerce's website at *https://www.trade.gov/administrative-protective-orders.*

Dated: July 1, 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 Memorandum Implementing Temporary Duty Free Importation

I. Summary
II. Background
III. Scope of the *Orders*
IV. Legal Framework
V. Request For Countervailing Duty Free Imports
VI. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2026–13796 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

[7] *See* 19 CFR 358.103.

[8] *See* 19 CFR 358.103(c)

[9] *See Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Electronic Filing Procedures; Administrative Protective Order Procedures,* 76 FR 39263 (July 6, 2011), as amended in *Enforcement and Compliance; Change of Electronic Filing System Name,* 79 FR 69046 (November 20, 2014) for details of Commerce's electronic filing requirements, effective August 5, 2011. Information on help using ACCESS can be found at *https://access.trade.gov/help* and a handbook can be found at: *https://access.trade.gov/ACCESS%20Handbook%20on%20Electronic%20Filing%20Procedures_March2026.pdf.*

[10] *See* 19 CFR 358.103(b).

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Determination Under the Textile and Apparel Commercial Availability Provision of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement ("CAFTA–DR")

AGENCY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

ACTION: Determination to add a product in unrestricted quantities to Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA–DR.

SUMMARY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (''CITA'') has determined that certain polyester/nylon blend dobby weave fabric, as specified below, is not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the CAFTA–DR countries. The product is added to the list in Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA–DR in unrestricted quantities.

DATES:

Applicable Date: July 8, 2026.

ADDRESSES: *https://otexaprod.trade.gov/otexacapublicsite/requests/cafta* under ''Approved Requests,'' File Number: CA2026003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laurie Mease, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482–2043 or *Laurie.Mease@trade.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: The CAFTA–DR; Section 203(o)(4) of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (''CAFTA–DR Implementation Act''), Public Law 109–53; the Statement of Administrative Action accompanying the CAFTA–DR Implementation Act; and Presidential Proclamation 7987 (February 28, 2006).

Background: The CAFTA–DR provides a list in Annex 3.25 for fabrics, yarns, and fibers that the Parties to the CAFTA–DR have determined are not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the territory of any Party. The CAFTA–DR provides that this list may be modified pursuant to Article 3.25.4, when the United States determines that a fabric, yarn, or fiber is not available in commercial quantities in a timely manner in the territory of any Party. *See* Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA–DR; *see also* section 203(o)(4)(C) of the CAFTA–DR Implementation Act.

The CAFTA–DR Implementation Act requires the President to establish procedures governing the submission of a request and providing opportunity for

interested entities to submit comments and supporting evidence before a commercial availability determination is made. In Presidential Proclamation 7987, the President delegated to CITA the authority under section 203(o)(4) of CAFTA–DR Implementation Act for modifying the Annex 3.25 list. Pursuant to this authority, on September 15, 2008, CITA published modified procedures it would follow in considering requests to modify the Annex 3.25 list of products determined to be not commercially available in the territory of any Party to the CAFTA–DR (*Modifications to Procedures for Considering Requests Under the Commercial Availability Provision of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement,* 73 FR 53200) (''CITA's Procedures'').

On May 27, 2026, CITA received a Commercial Availability Request (''Request'') from Barnes & Thornburg on behalf of The Powers Manufacturing Company d/b/a Powers Athletic (''Powers'') for certain nylon/polyester blend dobby weave fabric, as specified below. On May 29, 2026, in accordance with CITA's Procedures, CITA notified interested parties of the Request, which was posted on the dedicated website for CAFTA–DR Commercial Availability proceedings. In its notification, CITA advised that any Response with an Offer to Supply (''Response'') must be submitted by June 10, 2026, and any Rebuttal to a Response (''Rebuttal'') must be submitted by June 16, 2026, in accordance with sections 6 and 7 of CITA's Procedures. No interested entity submitted a Response to the Request advising CITA of its objection to the Request with an offer to supply the subject product.

In accordance with section 203(o)(4)(C) of the CAFTA–DR Implementation Act, and section 8(c)(2) of CITA's Procedures, as no interested entity submitted a Response objecting to the Request and providing an offer to supply the subject product, CITA has determined to add the specified fabric to the list in Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA–DR.

The subject product has been added to the list in Annex 3.25 of the CAFTA–DR Agreement in unrestricted quantities. A revised list has been posted on the dedicated website for CAFTA–DR Commercial Availability proceedings, at *https://otexaprod.trade.gov/otexacapublicsite/shortsupply/cafta.*

Specifications: Certain Polyester and Nylon Dobby Weave Fabric

HTS: 5407.73.2015, 5407.73.2060, 5407.53.2020, and 5407.53.2060.

Fabric Type: Dobby Weave on a Triple Beam Air Jet Loom.

Fabric Content: 78%–88% Polyester/12%–22% Nylon.

Yarn Size

Warp Yarn 1: Polyester 170 Denier/144 Filament Full Dull Air Textured Yarn (FDATY).

Warp Yarn 2: 166D/68F Nylon.

Warp Yarn 3: Nylon 30D monofilament.

Filling Yarn 1: Polyester 75D/72F Semi Dull Texturized.

Filling Yarn 2: Polyester 170D/144F.

Filling Yarn 3: Nylon 30D monofilament + 166D/68F Cordura (Nylon 6.6).

Note: Yarn size may vary by +/− 5% after processing. The yarn size designations describe a range of specifications for yarn in its greige condition. They are intended as specifications to be followed by the mill in sourcing yarn to produce the fabric. Weaving, dyeing, and finishing can alter the characteristic of the yarn as it appears in the finished fabric. This specification therefore includes yarns appearing in the finished fabric as finer or coarser than the designated yarn sizes, provided that the variation occurs after processing of the greige yarn and production of the fabric.

Thread Count

Metric: Various.

English: Various.

Weight: 147–185 grams per sq. meter.

Finished Density: 36–46 x 53–63.

Face Side (Technical Face or Back): Technical Side.

Width

Metric: 137 to 150 cm, 142.24 cuttable.

English: 54–60 inches, 57 cuttable.

Dye Type: Yarn Dye of Various colors.

Joshua Kroon,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 2026–13791 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

[Docket ID: USA–2026–HQ–0430]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of the Army, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 60-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,* the Department of the Army announces the extension of an approved public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by September 8, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number and title, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: Department of Defense, Office of the Director of Administration and Management, Oversight and Compliance Directorate, Regulatory Division, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 05F16, Alexandria, VA 22350–1700.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name, docket number and title for this **Federal Register** document. The general policy for comments and other submissions from members of the public is to make these submissions available for public viewing on the internet at *http://www.regulations.gov* as they are received without change, including any personal identifiers or contact information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the Office of the Product Manager for Force Protection Systems (PdM–FPS), 10115 Gratiot Road Building 363, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, ATTN: Ms. Melissa Moreau, or call 703–704–2413.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: Automated Installation Entry (AIE) System; OMB Control Number 0702–0125.

Needs and Uses: The information collection requirement is necessary to verify the identity of an individual and

determine the fitness of said individual requesting and/or requiring access to installations, and issuance of local access credentials. The information collection methodology involves the employment of technological collection of data via an electronic physical access control system (PACS) which provides the capability to rapidly and electronically authenticate credentials and validate an individual's authorization to enter an installation.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit.

Annual Burden Hours: 60,441.

Number of Respondents: 1,813,240.

Responses per Respondent: 1.

Annual Responses: 1,813,240.

Average Burden per Response: 2 minutes.

Frequency: On occasion.

Dated: July 2, 2026.

Stephanie J. Bost,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2026–13731 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001–FR–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Renewal of Department of Defense Federal Advisory Committees—Army Education Advisory Committee (AEAC)

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Renewal of Federal Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: The DoD (referred to herein as ''the Department'', ''Department of War'' or ''DoW'') is publishing this notice to announce that it is renewing the AEAC as a discretionary Federal advisory committee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Freeman, Advisory Committee Management Officer for the DoW, 703–692–5952.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The DoW is renewing the AEAC in accordance with chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) (commonly known as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act'' or ''FACA'') and 41 Code of Federal Register (CFR) 102–3.50(d), and DoW policies and procedures. The charter and contact information for the AEAC's Designated Federal Officer (DFO) are found at *https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/apex/FACAPublicAgencyNavigation.*

Consistent with 41 CFR 102–3.65(a), the DoW is publishing the AEAC's Public Interest Determination. Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.60(a), to establish, renew, reestablish, or merge a discretionary (agency discretion) advisory committee, an agency must first consult with the General Services Administration's Committee Management Secretariat (the Secretariat) and, as part of the consultation, provide a written public interest determination approved by the head of the agency to the Secretariat with a copy to the Office of Management and Budget. In addition, pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.35, an agency shall follow the same consultation process and document in writing the same determination of need before creating a subcommittee under a discretionary committee that is not made up entirely of members of a parent advisory committee. Information on the following factors for the AEAC is provided to the Secretariat to demonstrate that renewing the AEAC is in the public interest:

1. *Annual Budget:* The DoW estimates annual operating costs to support the AEAC are $393,721, which includes personnel travel, meetings, and contract support.

a. *Federal personnel on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis:* The estimated annual fully burdened personnel cost to the DoW is 1.45 full-time equivalent at $190,065 which includes basic pay with cost-of-living allowance (COLA).

b. *Other Federal internal costs:* Other administrative costs for the AEAC are $9,906.

c. *Proposed payments to members:* Consistent with 10 U.S.C. 173, members of the AEAC are not compensated for their services, except for travel and per diem reimbursement for official AEAC related business. Estimated ex-officio regular government employee (RGE) cost in support of the AEAC is $33,000.

d. *Proposed number of members:* As authorized by the Secretary of War (SecWar), the AEAC will be composed of not more than 15 members.

e. *Reimbursable costs:* The estimated reimbursement costs, to include travel, for AEAC staff and members are $160,750.

2. *If applicable, the total dollar value of grants expected to be recommended during the fiscal year:* N/A.

3. *Criteria for selecting members to ensure the committee has the necessary expertise and fairly balanced membership:* As described in its proposed charter and membership balance plan, The AEAC shall be composed of no more than 15 members. The membership shall include no more than 11 individuals from either the public or private sector who are eminent authorities in the fields of academia, leadership, management, and defense, including those who are deemed to be historical scholars.

Of the 15 members, one individual shall be ex-officio regular government employee (RGE) members:

(1.) The Chief Historian of the Army, U.S. Army, Center of Military History. Additionally, the following individuals shall be members of the AEAC:

(2.) The Chairs of the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) Board of Visitors (BoV) Subcommittee, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language (DLIFLC) BoV Subcommittee, and U.S. Army War College (USAWC) BoV Subcommittee.

In selecting members, the DoW seeks to capitalize on recognized talented, innovative private and public sector leaders to provide the broadest knowledge and expertise based on a balanced AEAC membership composition. The AEAC membership is not static, and the SecWar and Deputy Secretary of War (''the DoW Appointing Authority'') may change the membership based upon work assigned to the AEAC by the DoW Appointing Authority or the Secretary of the Army (SECARMY), as the AEAC's DoW Sponsor.

4. *List of all other DoW Federal Advisory Committees:* A complete listing of DoW Federal advisory committees can be located at: *https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/s/account/001t000000DCAooAAH/department-of-defense.*

5. *Justification that the information or advice provided by the Federal advisory committee or subcommittee is not available from another Federal advisory committee, another Federal Government source, or any other more cost-effective and less burdensome source:* The AEAC provides independent advice and recommendations focusing on matters pertaining to the educational, doctrinal, research policies, and activities of the U.S. Army's educational programs: the CGSC, the DLIFLC, and the USAWC—collectively the Army University or ''ArmyU,'' and includes the U.S. Army's joint professional military education (PME) programs. The AEAC assesses and provides independent advice and recommendations across the spectrum of educational policies, school curricula, educational philosophy and objectives, program effectiveness, facilities, staff and faculty, instructional methods, and other aspects of the organization and management of these programs. The AEAC also provides independent advice and recommendations on matters pertaining to the Army Historical Program and the role and mission of the U.S. Army Center of Military History, particularly

as they pertain to the study and use of military history in Army schools.

The SECARMY has established four permanent subcommittees, each of which, when tasked in accordance with DoW policy and procedures, will provide advice and recommendations to the AEAC for its consideration on matters described below for each respective subcommittee:

The CGSC BoV Subcommittee provides expert and continuous advice and recommendations to the AEAC on ways to improve the CGSC educational program, especially with regard to its master's degree programs and the maintenance of regional academic accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools' (HLC) accreditation standards and policies (as applicable to and feasible for a government institution), and achievement of institutional effectiveness and institutional sustainability. Membership shall primarily be from the civilian education community, with at least half of the members coming from other fields or professions.

The DLIFLC BoV Subcommittee provides advice and recommendations to the AEAC for input to the DLIFLC leadership on matters related to academic policies, staff and faculty development, student success indicators, curricula, educational methodology and objectives, program effectiveness, instructional methods, research, and academic administration. In addition, this subcommittee advises on the USAWC's adherence to its institutional mission, attainment of student outcomes, compliance with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), a regional accrediting body under the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, accreditation standards, and policies (as applicable to and feasible for a government institution), and achievement of institutional effectiveness and institutional sustainability. Members will include distinguished experts from academia, business, government, military, research, and other professionals.

The Department of the Army Historical Advisory Subcommittee provides advice and recommendations to the AEAC on matters pertaining to the Army Historical Program and the roles and missions of the U.S. Army Center for Military History in specific to improve historical support to the Army, including organizational restructuring and the writing, production, teaching, and use of military history. In addition, a continuing outside assessment of the quality and objectivity of Army historical products is necessary to ensure that the history that is produced meets academic professional historical standards. Members include nine members from academia who are deemed to be historical scholars and the following six ex-officio members:

(1) Dean of the Academic Board, U.S. Military Academy;

(2) Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Transformation and Training Command;

(3) Deputy Commandant, U.S. Army War College;

(4) Deputy Commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College;

(5) Deputy Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army; and

(6) Chief Historian of the Army, U.S. Army, Center of Military History.

The USAWC BoV Subcommittee provides expert counsel and advice and recommendations relating to the USAWC organizations and activities, curriculum development, program effectiveness, and other aspects of organization and management, any matters the Commandant, USAWC decides the BoV should consider, and retain its accreditation as a college. This subcommittee advises on the USAWC's adherence to its institutional mission, attainment of student outcomes, compliance with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) accreditation standards, and policies (as applicable to and feasible for a government institution), and achievement of institutional effectiveness and institutional sustainability. Members shall be eminent authorities in the fields of academia, business, government, military, research, and other professions.

While ultimate authority over the AEAC resides within the DoW and Department of the Army chain of command, civilian academic accrediting bodies (such as the HLC, ACCJC, and MSCHE) require higher education institutions to maintain an independent board. The AEAC, supported by its subcommittees, fulfills academic accreditation governing board requirements under HLC, ACCJC, and MSCHE standards by acting as an independent advisory body. Without the AEAC, the CGSC, DLIFLC, and USAWC risk loss of civilian accreditation, directly threatening force recruiting, retention, and graduate credibility across the DoW.

The AEAC provides expert advice and recommendations of all new courses, degree plans, and financial management functions, ensuring that the CGSC, DLIFLC, and USAWC continue to operate rigorous educational programs that are perfectly aligned with the Army's purpose and mission, and as an extension, the DoW's Joint PME Program.

6. *If the consultation is a committee renewal, a summary of the previous accomplishments of the committee and the reasons it needs to continue:* AEAC 2015–2024 Accomplishments: the AEAC's advice and recommendations to the DoW and the Department of the Army resulted in the following:

- (2015) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was completion of the study Opening of Closed Military Occupational Specialties in the Army to Female Soldiers. Study addressed a long-standing DoD policy that declared service members were eligible to be assigned to all positions for which they were qualified, except that women were excluded from assignment to units below the brigade level whose primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground. As a result of this study, Army policies were changed and gender integration training and procedures put in place to allow females to serve in front-line Combat Arms units.
- (2016) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was completion of an examination of ArmyU efforts to blend the best characteristics of civilian and military educational institutions to create a premier learning environment, and Talent Management, how the Army manages and assesses talent.
- (2017) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was completion of a review of ArmyU's individual learning profiles to help shape every Soldier's training, education and experiences that can be easily translated by civilian colleges, universities and industry.
- (2017) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was completion of an examination of the state of development within ArmyU of CBE and recommendation of how the Army can further incorporate these practices into a new paradigm to more fully capture learning outcomes across Army institutions, the operating force, and individual self-development in a competency-based framework.
- (2017) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and

recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was completion of a comprehensive study and review on implementation of Army policy on military service and training of Transgender Soldiers. Study determined and identified potential 2nd and 3rd order effects that may occur with transgender Soldiers in the training base and recommended changes to Army policy as well recommended ways the Army could mitigate any negative ramifications during implementation.

- (2018) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was completion of an assessment of Large-Scale Combat Operations (LSCO)/Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). Conducted a comprehensive assessment on the Army's instruction of LSCO/MDO in its curricular core. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the integration of LSCO/MDO into the military professional educational system as the Army transitions from a Counterinsurgency focus to a LSCO/MDO.
- (2018) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was to recommend reaffirmation of the academic accreditation of the DLIFLC by the ACCJC.
- (2018) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was completion of a study of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's (TRADOC) Basic Combat Training (BCT) Workload. AEAC examined the execution of BCT and evaluated the effectiveness of current training strategies and manpower models to determine potential resource changes or updates. The AEAC took a holistic approach in reviewing the BCT mission execution, structure, and resourcing practices that resulted in implementing recommendations to improve BCT staffing, leadership, battalion structure, and the quality of life for drill sergeants.
- (2019) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was to recommend reaffirmation of the academic accreditation of the USAWC by the MSCHE.
- (2019) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was completion of a study of the Quality of Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Army Training Centers. As a follow-on to the BCT Workload study, AEAC evaluated the BCT Drill Sergeant (DS) and BCT Committee Group (BCTCG) execution of the BCT Program of Instruction (POI) within and across the training base. The study also assessed the quality and quantity shortfalls of instructional training equipment and supplies specified by the POI.
- (2020) The AEAC was unable to provide any advice or recommendations as all DoD FACA Committee operations were suspended by the Secretary of Defense for a Department of Defense Zero-Based Review (DoD ZBR).
- (2021) An accomplishment prior to the ZBR based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was to recommend reaffirmation of the academic accreditation of the DLIFLC by the ACCJC.
- (2021) An accomplishment prior to the ZBR based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army was to recommend a substantive change for the BA Degree authority in the academic accreditation of the DLIFLC by the ACCJC.
- (2021) The AEAC was unable to provide any advice or recommendations for late FY21 as it did not meet in late FY21 due to the DoD ZBR.
- (2022) The AEAC was unable to provide any advice or recommendations for FY22 as it did not meet in FY22 due to the DoD ZBR.
- (2023) The AEAC did not provide any advice or recommendations for FY23 as the Army focused on resuming AEAC operations and reconstituting its membership following the DoD ZBR.
- (2024) An accomplishment based on the AEAC's advice and recommendations provided to the Department of the Army, was to recommend reaffirmation of the academic accreditation of the DLIFLC by the ACCJC.

AEAC 2025 Accomplishments: Following the Secretary of Defense's 2025 advisory committee stand-down directive, the AEAC has not convened since March 2025. DoW is actively reconstituting the AEAC in FY26, establishing updated bylaws and a revised charter that align with current Administration priorities.

7. *Explanation of why the committee/subcommittee is essential to the conduct of agency business:* The AEAC directly advances the Administration's core national security priorities by providing independent advice and recommendations ensuring the CGSC, DLIFLC, and USAWC's curricula, doctrine, and research align with the goal of deterring adversaries through strength—not weakness—by producing lethal, operationally ready warriors trained for successful large-scale, high kinetic, combat operations against peer adversaries who are imbued with the essential Warrior Ethos to win decisively. The AEAC advice and recommendations allow the DoW and Department of the Army to enforce a merit-based framework of academic rigor and joint/civilian accreditation that sustains the Warrior Ethos by demanding excellence at every level of PME. Through its focus on lethality-based education, the AEAC's advice and recommendations to the DoW ensure CGSC, DLIFLC, and USAWC graduates are warfighters prepared to defend the homeland and project overwhelming decisive force across all domains around the globe to crush their enemies. Additionally, the AEAC advice and recommendations assist the DoW to fulfill the governing board requirement under HLC, ACCJC, and MSCHE, maintaining the civilian accreditation that underpins recruiting, retention, and the credibility of every degree and certificate the CGSC, DLIFLC, and USAWC confers.

The AEAC advances the DoW's core business of building lethal, merit-based joint airpower warriors across the full spectrum of the force through career-long PME. The AEAC advice and recommendations assist the DoW in ensuring that CGSC, DLIFLC, and USAWC trains Soldiers and other military service members to seamlessly leverage multi-domain power in large-scale combat operations. The AEAC supports CGSC, DLIFLC, and USAWC's role as premier research institutions, ensuring operationally relevant research reaches sponsors across the joint force in direct support of the 2026 National Defense Strategy and Joint Warfighting Concepts.

The public or interested organizations may submit written statements about the AEAC's mission and functions. All written statements shall be submitted to the DFO for the AEAC.

Dated: July 2, 2026.

Stephanie J. Bost,

Alternate OSD Federal Register, Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2026–13729 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001–FR–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

[Docket ID: USN–2025–HQ–0235]

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: 30-Day information collection notice.

SUMMARY: The DoD (referred to herein as ''the Department'', ''Department of War'' or ''DoW'') has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by August 7, 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Reginald Lucas, (571) 372–7574, *whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title; Associated Form; and OMB Number: U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General Corps Career Programs Applications and Interviews; OPNAV Form 1070/3; OMB Control Number 0703–0074.

Type of Request: Reinstatement.

JAGC Student Program/Direct Appointment Application

Number of Respondents: 300.
Responses per Respondent: 1.
Annual Responses: 300.
Average Burden per Response: 2 hours.
Annual Burden Hours: 600.

Internship/Externship Program Application

Number of Respondents: 100.
Responses per Respondent: 1.
Annual Responses: 100.
Average Burden per Response: 1 hour.
Annual Burden Hours: 100.

Structured Interviews

Number of Respondents: 300.
Responses per Respondent: 1.
Annual Responses: 300.
Average Burden per Response: 1.5 hours.
Annual Burden Hours: 450.

Total

Number of Respondents: 700.
Annual Responses: 700.
Annual Burden Hours: 1,150.

Needs and Uses: Information collection is necessary to determine the eligibility, competitive standing, and scholastic and leadership potential of students and lawyers interested in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAGC) Internship/Externship Program, Student Program, or Direct Appointment Program.

Respondents are law students or practicing attorneys. The internship program offers law students the opportunity to intern with the JAGC while in law school, the Student Program offers law students the opportunity to apply for a commission to the JAGC, and the Direct Appointment Program offers practicing attorneys the opportunity to apply for a commission to the JAGC.

All applications are completed and submitted online via the JAGC online application system. Applicants to the Direct Appointment or Student Programs must also request a separate in-person interview from the responsible JAGC recruiting officer in the local area of responsibility.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

DOD Clearance Officer: Mr. Reginald Lucas.

Dated: July 2, 2026.

Stephanie J. Bost,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2026–13730 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001–FR–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED–2026–SCC–1420]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Income Driven Repayment Plan Request for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans and Federal Family Education Loan Programs

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 revision of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 7, 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: Income Driven Repayment Plan Request for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans and Federal Family Education Loan Programs.

OMB Control Number: 1845–0102.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved ICR.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 9,500,000.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 3,135,000.

Abstract: The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) signed into law on July 4, 2025, made statutory changes to Sections 455(a), 455(d), 455(e), 455(g), and 455(q) that impact borrower eligibility, terms and conditions, and borrowers' rights and responsibilities for

Direct Loans received on or after July 1, 2026. Additionally, previous provisions regulated in 34 CFR 685.209 effective July 1, 2024, were invalidated as a result of court actions on March 10, 2026.

Section 493C of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (the HEA), authorizes the Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan for borrowers who obtain student loans through the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program. Section 455(e) of the HEA describes income-contingent repayment plans for borrowers who obtain student loans through the Direct Loan Program. Section 455(q) of the HEA describes the Repayment Assistance Plan for borrowers who obtain student loans through the Direct Loan Program. These plans are collectively referred to as income driven repayment (IDR) plans and the regulations that govern them are in 34 CFR 682.215 (for FFEL Program loans) and 685.209 (for Direct Loans). There are three income-contingent repayment plans: the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan (formerly REPAYE), Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Plan, and the Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) Plan. The court action effective March 10, 2026 invalidates the SAVE Plan and the OBBBA requires the remaining income-contingent plans be sunset by July 1, 2028.

The Department is updating the currently approved IDR Request Form that is used by a borrower to enroll, recertify, or change their IDR plan to support the provisions identified by the OBBBA and court action. Specifically, the form is being updated to add the Repayment Assistance Plan as an option for borrowers to select and revising the questions related to family size to accurately gather the borrower's number of dependents—a component unique to the Repayment Assistance Plan. Additionally, the form explains the terms of the Repayment Assistance Plan and provides notice that the PAYE and ICR plans will be sunset in 2028 (the SAVE Plan was removed in a previous version of the form as a result of a court injunction). Additional updates to improve clarity and the borrower experience as a result of these changes have also been made.

Ross Santy,

Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2026–13799 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Combined Notice of Filings #1

Take notice that the Commission received the following exempt wholesale generator filings:

Docket Numbers: EG26–268–000.
Applicants: Spindle Battery LLC.
Description: Spindle Battery LLC submits Notice of Self-Certification of Exempt Wholesale Generator Status.
Filed Date: 7/1/26.
Accession Number: 20260701–5415.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/22/26.

Take notice that the Commission received the following Complaints and Compliance filings in EL Dockets:

Docket Numbers: EL26–85–000.
Applicants: Red Flame Ranch, LLC.
Description: Petition for Enforcement of Petitioner Red Flame Ranch LLC.
Filed Date: 6/22/26.
Accession Number: 20260622–5395.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/22/26.

Docket Numbers: EL26–86–000.
Applicants: Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative v. *Interstate Power and Light Company*.
Description: Complaint of Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative v. *Interstate Power and Light Company*.
Filed Date: 7/1/26.
Accession Number: 20260701–5416.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/21/26.

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

Docket Numbers: ER13–760–003; ER19–2644–003; ER19–430–003; ER22–2483–002.
Applicants: Alta Farms Wind Project II, LLC, Enel Green Power Hilltopper Wind, LLC, Whitney Hill Wind Power, LLC, Canastota Windpower, LLC.
Description: Triennial Market Power Analysis for Northeast Region of Canastota Windpower, LLC, et al.
Filed Date: 6/26/26.
Accession Number: 20260626–5291.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 8/25/26.

Docket Numbers: ER18–574–002.
Applicants: Monument Generating Station, LLC.
Description: Compliance filing: Informational Filing Regarding Transfer of Ownership and Requests for Waiver to be effective N/A.
Filed Date: 7/2/26.
Accession Number: 20260702–5074.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/23/26.

Docket Numbers: ER18–575–002.
Applicants: O.H. Hutchings CT, LLC.
Description: Compliance filing: Informational Filing Regarding Transfer of Ownership and Requests for Waiver to be effective N/A.
Filed Date: 7/2/26.
Accession Number: 20260702–5077.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/23/26.

Docket Numbers: ER18–578–002.
Applicants: Yankee Street, LLC.
Description: Compliance filing: Informational Filing Regarding Transfer of Ownership and Requests for Waiver to be effective N/A.
Filed Date: 7/2/26.
Accession Number: 20260702–5078.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/23/26.

Docket Numbers: ER21–573–008; ER21–574–008; ER12–1436–022; ER22–48–007; ER21–575–008; ER18–280–013; ER18–534–010; ER18–537–010; ER18–536–010; ER11–4266–019; ER18–538–011; ER18–533–009; ER18–535–010; ER24–415–001.
Applicants: Bowline, LLC, Yankee Street, LLC, Tait Electric Generating Station, LLC, Sidney, LLC, Richland-Stryker Generation LLC, O.H. Hutchings CT, LLC, Monument Generating Station, LLC, Montpelier Generating Station, LLC, Lee County Generating Station, LLC, Lanyard Power Marketing, LLC, Gridflex Generation, LLC, Eagle Point Power Generation LLC, Dickerson Power, LLC, Chalk Point Power, LLC.
Description: Triennial Market Power Analysis for Northeast Region of Bowline, LLC, et al.
Filed Date: 6/26/26.
Accession Number: 20260626–5273.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 8/25/26.

Docket Numbers: ER22–2580–006.
Applicants: CPV Three Rivers, LLC.
Description: Updated Market Power Analysis for Northeast Region and Notice of Non-Material Change in Status of CPV Three Rivers, LLC.
Filed Date: 6/29/26.
Accession Number: 20260629–5286.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 8/28/26.

Docket Numbers: ER24–551–003; ER22–1777–004; ER22–1779–004; ER24–553–003; ER24–552–002; ER13–1069–026; ER12–2381–023; ER16–918–008; ER21–2001–002; ER10–1484–037.
Applicants: Shell Energy North America (US), L.P., Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC, Rhode Island State Energy Center, LP, MP2 Energy NE LLC, MP2 Energy LLC, Martin County II Solar Project, LLC, Martin County Solar Project, LLC, Marion County Solar Project, LLC, Madison Fields Solar Project, LLC, Elkhart County Solar Project, LLC.
Description: Triennial Market Power Analysis for Northeast Region and Notice of Non-Material Change in Status of Elkhart County Solar Project, LLC, et al.
Filed Date: 6/29/26.

Accession Number: 20260629–5287.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/20/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–3080–000.
Applicants: PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Amended ISA, Service Agreement No. 6396; AE2–217 to be effective 9/1/2026.
Filed Date: 7/2/26.
Accession Number: 20260702–5015.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/23/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–3081–000.
Applicants: Southwest Power Pool, Inc.
Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: RTO Expansion Tariff Clean-Up Filing Effective 20260401 to be effective 4/1/2026.
Filed Date: 7/2/26.
Accession Number: 20260702–5024.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/23/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–3082–000.
Applicants: PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Amendment to ISA, SA No. 6909; Queue No. AF2–156 to be effective 9/1/2026.
Filed Date: 7/2/26.
Accession Number: 20260702–5039.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/23/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–3083–000.
Applicants: Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.
Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: 2026–07–02_Revisions to Module E–2 to be effective 9/1/2026.
Filed Date: 7/2/26.
Accession Number: 20260702–5083.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/23/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–3084–000.
Applicants: The Narragansett Electric Company.
Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: Wholesale Distribution Tariff Filing to be effective 9/1/2026.
Filed Date: 7/2/26.
Accession Number: 20260702–5090.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/23/26.

Docket Numbers: ER26–3085–000.
Applicants: Public Service Company of Colorado.
Description: 205(d) Rate Filing: 2026–07–02 United Power FSA–936–0.0.0 to be effective 8/31/2026.
Filed Date: 7/2/26.
Accession Number: 20260702–5103.
Comment Date: 5 p.m. ET 7/23/26.

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: July 2, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–13775 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD26–7–000]

PJM Governance and Stakeholder Reforms; Second Supplemental Notice of Commission-Led Technical Conference

As announced in the May 12, 2026 Notice and the June 5, 2026 Supplemental Notice in the above-referenced proceeding, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) will convene a Chairman and Commissioner-led technical conference. The one-day technical conference will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, July 23, 2026, in the Kevin J. McIntyre Commission Meeting Room at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426.

The purpose of this technical conference is to discuss PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.'s (PJM) governance and stakeholder processes, with a particular focus on identifying and evaluating concrete, actionable reforms to improve PJM's ability to address operational and market needs in a timely and efficient manner. The conference will explore specific governance features and stakeholder processes in PJM that impact timely action on operational and market needs. The conference will also explore potential reforms to PJM governance structure and stakeholder processes. The preliminary agenda for this conference is attached to this Second Supplemental Notice and provides panelist assignments.

All panelists must submit pre-filed statements outlining their views on the topics of the technical conference, which may address some or all of the questions associated with their panel and may also address related issues. Panelists must submit a pre-filed statement no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. Commission staff will post pre-filed statements submitted by panelists on the FERC technical conference web page prior to the conference and in eLibrary. With the exception of the opening statements of invited speakers, all other panels will proceed immediately to questions from the Chairman and Commissioners.

Prior to the technical conference, all interested persons are also invited to file in the docket captioned above comments on the issues to be discussed at the conference, including on the questions listed in the attached agenda. Commenters need not answer all the questions but are encouraged to organize responses using the numbering and sequencing in the attached agenda.

The Commission will not discuss any specific proceeding pending before the Commission at this technical conference. Consistent with that approach to this technical conference, panelists and commenters should not address specific proceedings pending before the Commission in their respective pre-filed statements and comments.

The technical conference will be open to the public. Advance registration is not required, and there is no fee for attendance. Information will also be posted on the Calendar of Events on the Commission's website, *www.ferc.gov,* prior to the event. To stay apprised of issuances in this docket, there is an ''eSubscription'' link on the Commission's website that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket.

The technical conference will be transcribed and webcast. Transcripts will be available for a fee from Ace Reporting (202–347–3700). A link to the webcast of this event will be available in the Commission Calendar of Events at *www.ferc.gov.* The Commission provides technical support for the free webcasts. Please call 202–502–8680 or email *customer@ferc.gov* if you have any questions.

Commission technical conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations, please send an email to *accessibility@ferc.gov* or call toll free 1–866–208–3372 (voice) or 202–208–8659 (TTY) or send a fax to 202–208–2106 with the required accommodations.

For more information about this technical conference, please contact Alandro Valdez at *alandro.valdez@ferc.gov* or 202–502–8986. For legal information, please contact Emmett Barnes at *emmett.barnes@ferc.gov* or 202–502–8413.

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 825h.)

Dated: July 2, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

PJM Governance and Stakeholder Reforms

Docket No. AD26–7–000

Agenda

Thursday, July 23, 2026

9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.: Chairman and Commissioner Opening Remarks

9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.: Remarks of Invited Speakers

- Peter Lake—The White House, Senior Director of Power, National Energy Dominance Council

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.: Panel 1: PJM Governance Mechanics—Board Authority, States' Role, Filing Rights, and Document Architecture

This panel will explore aspects of PJM's governance mechanics that may impede PJM's ability to address operational and market needs. Panelists will also identify and discuss potential concrete, actionable solutions to ensure that PJM's Board and PJM are best equipped to tackle immediate and future challenges that are identified by stakeholders.

Potential Questions

1. What is the PJM Board's role in ensuring that PJM is sufficiently tackling the region's operational and market challenges? How does the Board evaluate its effectiveness in that role? How often, and under what circumstances, does the Board act unilaterally, and should this change?

2. How should states, through the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI) or other structures, interface with the Board to enable the region to meet operational and market challenges while respecting PJM's independence?

3. What governance reforms would best improve accountability and responsiveness?

4. How does the division of Federal Power Act section 205 [1] filing rights among PJM, Transmission Owners, and the Members Committee affect PJM's ability to act effectively and quickly, when warranted, to address operational and market needs?

5. To what extent do provisions in PJM's Operating Agreement, Transmission Owner Agreement, Open Access Transmission Tariff, Reliability Assurance Agreement, or Manuals impede timely decision-making by PJM?

6. Recognizing regional differences, are there lessons from other regional transmission organization/independent system operator (RTO/ISO) governance structures that PJM could reasonably adopt to improve its responsiveness to the region's operational and market challenges?

Panelists

- David Mills—PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., President and CEO
- The Honorable Pat Wood III—Hunt Energy Network, Executive Chairman
- The Honorable Kelsey Bagot—Virginia State Corporation Commission, Chair
- Jacob Finkel—Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro's Office, Deputy Secretary of Policy
- Stacey Burbure—American Electric Power, Senior Vice President, Transmission Regulatory Engagement & Compliance
- Marjorie Rosenbluth Philips—LS Power, Senior Vice President, Wholesale Market Design
- Maria Gulluni—ISO–NE, General Counsel

12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.: Lunch Break

1:00 p.m.–3:45 p.m.: Panel 2: PJM Stakeholder Process—Design, Transparency, and Decision-Making

Includes a 15-minute break

With respect to RTO/ISO stakeholder processes, the Commission has found RTO/ISO responsiveness to customers and stakeholders as essential to well-functioning markets, and established four principles to assess the filed practices and procedures of each RTO and ISO: inclusiveness, fairness in balancing diverse interests, representation of minority positions, and ongoing responsiveness.[2] This panel will examine how PJM's stakeholder process, including established sectors, committees, and voting structures, affects the RTO's ability to take necessary and timely actions, including section 205 filings, to address the region's operational and market challenges. Panelists will also discuss state participation in the stakeholder process and potential process redesigns that preserve multisector representation. This panel will also identify potential concrete, actionable reforms to improve the effectiveness of the PJM stakeholder process and create fast-path or time-bound review procedures for critical issues. This panel will include two sets of panelists with one before and one after the break.

Potential Questions

1. Do sector-weighted voting and existing voting thresholds strike the right balance between achieving consensus and taking timely action?

2. What transparency reforms would improve the quality of PJM's stakeholder process and increase stakeholder confidence in its decision-making?

3. Are there structured opportunities in the stakeholder process for state participation (*e.g.,* defined consultation windows, joint technical sessions) to provide input on topics that are of interest to the states?

4. Do existing governing document provisions (*e.g.,* Operating Agreement, Manuals) impede stakeholder decision-making and what changes could be made to address them?

5. What reforms to the stakeholder process could ensure PJM can meet the region's challenges?

6. What near-term reforms to stakeholder representation could PJM and its Members [3] take to improve speed in decision-making while preserving stakeholder input?

7. Are there elements of PJM's committee structure that routinely contribute to delays? Are there stakeholder processes or issues that could be expedited or changed to provide greater focus on key issues and allow faster or more unilateral action on others?

[1] 16 U.S.C. 824d.

[2] *Wholesale Competition in Regions with Organized Electric Markets,* Order No. 719, 125 FERC ¶ 61,071, at PP 482, 504 (2008), *order on reh'g,* Order No. 719–A, 128 FERC ¶ 61,059 (2009), *order on reh'g,* Order No. 719–B, 129 FERC ¶ 61,252 (2009).

[3] Members are defined as ''an entity that satisfies the requirements of the [OA], section 11.6 and that (i) is a member of the LLC immediately prior to the Effective Date, or (ii) has executed an Additional Member Agreement in the form set forth in Operating Agreement, Schedule 4. PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Intra-PJM Tariffs, M–N, OA Definitions M–N (22.0.1). Members are either (i) Transmission Owners, (ii) Generation Owners, (iii) Other Suppliers, (iv) Electricity Distributors, or (v) End-Use customers.'' PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Intra-PJM Tariffs, 11.6, OA 11.6 Membership Requirements (4.0.0). Stakeholders are defined as ''PJM Members, OPSI and its members, state consumer advocates who are not PJM Members, Independent Market Monitor, PJM staff, and PJM's Board.'' PJM Manual 34, Section 2 (Definitions).

8. Should PJM increase the use of fast-path or time-bound review procedures to expedite committee action on high-importance topics?

9. Recognizing regional differences, are there lessons from other RTO/ISO stakeholder processes that PJM could reasonably adopt to improve speed in voting processes and stakeholder representation?

Panelists—Group 1

- Asim Haque—PJM Interconnection L.L.C., Executive Vice President, Governmental and Member Services
- Suzanne Jaworowski—Indiana Governor Mike Braun's Office, Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources
- J. Arnold Quinn—Vistra Corp., Senior Vice President, Regulatory Policy
- Steven Lieberman—American Municipal Power, Inc., Vice President of Transmission & Regulatory Affairs
- Abe Silverman—Johns Hopkins Ralph O'Connor Sustainable Energy Institute, Assistant Research Scholar
- Kent Chandler—R Street Institute, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Energy and Environmental Policy
- Pamela Quinlan—GQS New Energy Strategies, Principal

Panelists—Group 2

- David Anders—PJM Interconnection L.L.C., Senior Director of Stakeholder Affairs
- Glen Thomas—PJM Power Producers, President
- Jodi Moskowitz—Public Service Enterprise Group Inc., Vice President Regulatory—Law, Deputy General Counsel and RTO Strategy Officer
- David Lapp—Maryland Office of People's Council, Maryland People's Counsel
- Mason Emnett—Constellation, Senior Vice President for Public Policy
- Brian George—Google, Senior Lead, U.S. Energy Markets
- Susan Bruce—PJM Industrial Customer Coalition, Counsel

3:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m.: Recap and Closing Remarks

[FR Doc. 2026–13773 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP03–75–000]

Freeport LNG Development, L.P.; Notice of Scoping Period Requesting Comments on Environmental Issues for the Proposed Regasification Terminal Disconnect Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental document that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Regasification Terminal Disconnect Project (Project) involving removal of facilities by Freeport LNG Development, L.P. (Freeport LNG) on Quintana Island in Brazoria County, Texas. The Commission will use this environmental document in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public interest.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies regarding the project. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the Commission takes into account concerns the public may have about proposals and the environmental impacts that could result from its action whenever it considers the issuance of an authorization. This gathering of public input is referred to as ''scoping.'' The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the environmental document on the important environmental issues. Additional information about the Commission's NEPA process is described below in the *NEPA Process and Environmental Document* section of this notice.

By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of issues to address in the environmental document. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please submit your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on August 3, 2026. Further details on how to submit comments are provided in the *Public Participation* section of this notice.

Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the environmental document. Commission staff will consider all written comments during the preparation of the environmental document.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

Public Participation

There are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208–3676 or *FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov.*

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature, which is located on the Commission's website (*www.ferc.gov*) under the link to FERC Online. Using eComment is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can file your comments electronically by using the eFiling feature, which is located on the Commission's website (*www.ferc.gov*) under the link to FERC Online. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on ''eRegister.'' You will be asked to select the type of filing you are making; a comment on a particular project is considered a ''Comment on a Filing''; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the Commission. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP03–75–000) on your letter. 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, MD 20852.

Additionally, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which makes it easy to stay informed of all issuances and submittals regarding the dockets/projects to which you subscribe. These instant email notifications are the fastest way to receive notification and provide a link to the document files which can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings. Go to *https://*

www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview to register for eSubscription.

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.*

Summary of the Proposed Project

Freeport LNG's Terminal has been operated exclusively for the purpose of liquefying natural for export, and has not regasified imported LNG for well over a decade, Freeport LNG proposes to decommission, disconnect, and/or demolish obsolete facilities authorized by the Commission, which are no longer necessary for the Terminal's present-day export operations.

The Regasification Terminal Disconnect Project (Project) would involve the removal of the Regasification Facilities and modification/relocation of certain facilities required for continued operations at the terminal's liquefaction facility. Freeport LNG proposes to execute the Project in about 22 months including the design phase with removal and modification taking place over 12 months. This would involve physically disconnecting the regasification facilities from the liquefaction facility and modifying/relocating the facilities required for continued operations as well as demolition and removal of the regasification facilities, including associated underground piping, equipment foundations, and concrete paving.

Freeport LNG indicated that removal activities would occur, on average, six days per week during daytime hours (between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.), with the potential for certain activities to be performed overnight to increase daytime efficiency.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.[1]

Land Requirements for Construction

Removal of the existing regasification facilities would disturb about 13 acres within the fenceline of the Freeport LNG Terminal. Following construction, Freeport LNG would maintain the disturbed acres for permanent operation of the existing Freeport LNG Liquefaction export facilities.

NEPA Process and the Environmental Document

Any environmental document issued by the Commission will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the removal of the proposed project under the relevant general resource areas.

Commission staff will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas. Your comments will help Commission staff identify and focus on the issues that might have an effect on the human environment and potentially eliminate others from further study and discussion in the environmental document.

Following this scoping period, Commission staff will determine whether to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EA or the EIS will present Commission staff's independent analysis of the issues. If Commission staff prepares an EA, a *Notice of Schedule for the Preparation of an Environmental Assessment* will be issued. The EA may be issued for an allotted public comment period. The Commission would consider timely comments on the EA before making its decision regarding the proposed project. If Commission staff prepares an EIS, a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS/Notice of Schedule* will be issued, which will open up an additional comment period. Staff will then prepare a draft EIS which will be issued for public comment. Commission staff will consider all timely comments received during the comment period on the draft EIS and revise the document, as necessary, before issuing a final EIS. Any EA or draft and final EIS will be available in electronic format in the public record through eLibrary[2] and the Commission's natural gas environmental documents web page (*https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/environmental-documents*). If eSubscribed, you will receive instant email notification when the environmental document is issued.

With this notice, the Commission is asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document.[3] Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the *Public Participation* section of this notice. Currently, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration has expressed its intention to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the environmental document.

Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Commission is using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Office(s), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project's potential effects on historic properties.[4] The environmental document for this project will document findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

Environmental Mailing List

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; Native American Tribes; environmental and public interest groups; other interested parties; and local libraries and media outlets. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the project and includes a mailing address with their comments. Commission staff will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that Commission notices related to this environmental review are sent to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed project.

If you need to make changes to your name/address, or if you would like to remove your name from the mailing list,

[1] The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the **Federal Register**. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at *www.ferc.gov* using the ''eLibrary'' link. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice. For assistance, contact FERC at *FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov* or call toll free, (886) 208–3676 or TTY (202) 502–8659.

[2] For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

[3] Cooperating agency responsibilities are addressed in Section 107(a)(3) of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4336(a)(3)).

[4] The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

please complete one of the following steps:

(1) Send an email to *GasProjectAddressChange@ferc.gov* stating your request. You must include the docket number CP03–75–000 in your request. If you are requesting a change to your address, please be sure to include your name and the correct address. If you are requesting to delete your address from the mailing list, please include your name and address as it appeared on this notice. This email address is unable to accept comments.

OR

(2) Return the attached ''Mailing List Update Form'' (appendix 2).

Additional Information

Additional information about the project is available from the FERC website at *www.ferc.gov* using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on ''General Search'' and enter the docket number in the ''Docket Number'' field. Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at *FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov* or (866) 208–3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502–8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of all formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Public sessions or site visits will be posted on the Commission's calendar located at *https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events* along with other related information.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1)

Dated: July 2, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–13772 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. ID–8705–002]

Bartlett, Ryan; Notice of Filing

Take notice that on June 30, 2026, Ryan Bartlett submitted for filing, application for authority to hold interlocking positions, pursuant to section 305(b) of the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 825d (b) and Part 45.8 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR part 45.8.

Any person desiring to intervene or to protest this filing must file in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214). Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a notice of intervention or motion to intervene, as appropriate. Such notices, motions, or protests must be filed on or before the comment date. On or before the comment date, it is not necessary to serve motions to intervene or protests on persons other than the Applicant.

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*). From the Commission'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 Commission'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 ''eFiling'' link at *http://www.ferc.gov*. Persons unable to file electronically may mail similar pleadings to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. Hand delivered submissions in docketed proceedings should be delivered to Health and Human Services, 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*.

Comment Date: 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on July 21, 2026.

(Authority: 18 CFR 2.1.)

Dated: July 2, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–13774 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. AD10–12–017]

Increasing Market and Planning Efficiency Through Improved Software; Second Supplemental Notice of Technical Conference on Increasing Market and Planning Efficiency Through Improved Software

As announced in the Notice of Technical Conference issued in this proceeding on March 4, 2026, Commission staff will convene a technical conference on July 7 and 8, 2026 to discuss grid-enhancing technologies, load forecasting, and opportunities for increasing market and planning efficiency through improved software.

Commission staff do not intend to discuss any specific proceeding pending before the Commission at this technical conference. Pending proceedings that involve issues similar to those that may be raised at this technical conference include, but are not limited to, the following:

	Docket No.
Southwest Power Pool, Inc	ER22–1697–000
Southwest Power Pool, Inc	ER24–1317–000
Southwest Power Pool, Inc	ER24–1658–000
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C	ER24–2045–000
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C	ER26–846–000
Southwest Power Pool, Inc.	ER26–1323–000
Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.	ER26–1538–000
Southwest Power Pool, Inc	ER26–2249–000
Southwest Power Pool, Inc	ER26–2592–000
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C	EL25–44–000
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C	EL25–49–000
Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.	EL25–109–000
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C	EL26–4–000
ISO New England Inc	EL26–57–000
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C	EL26–63–000
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C	EL26–67–000
Southwest Power Pool, Inc	EL26–68–000
New York Independent System Operator, Inc.	EL26–69–000
Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.	EL26–70–000
California Independent System Operator Corporation.	EL26–71–000
ISO New England Inc	EL26–72–000
Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Southwest Power Pool, Inc.	EL26–74–000
Department of Energy	RM26–4–000

The conference will be transcribed and will allow discussion panelists to participate in-person and panel

attendees to listen either in-person or virtually. Software presenters and attendees may participate either in-person or virtually on the second day of the conference. Further details on both in-person and virtual participation are available on the conference web page.[1]

The technical conference will be open to the public. (Due to security screening, foreign nationals who had planned to attend in person were required to register through the Commission's website on or before June 12, 2026.) All attendees, including those who plan to participate virtually in Q&A on the second day of the conference, are encouraged to register through the Commission's website as soon as practical. Registration will help ensure that Commission staff can provide sufficient physical and virtual facilities, and communicate with attendees in the case of unanticipated emergencies or other changes to the conference schedule or location.

Slides for the second day of the conference were due from selected presenters by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, June 30, 2026. Before 1:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, July 6, 2026, Commission staff will work with presenters to provide quality assurance that their presentation materials are prepared, formatted correctly, and ready for delivery during the conference. All updates to slides submitted before 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2026 will be posted to the Commission website in advance of the conference. Late submissions will be posted to the Commission website after the conference; however, the live conference may use the slide versions submitted before the deadline.

To stay apprised of issuances in this docket, there is an ''eSubscription'' link on the Commission's website that enables subscribers to receive email notification when a document is added to a subscribed docket(s). Information on this technical conference will also be posted on the Calendar of Events on the Commission's website, *www.ferc.gov,* prior to the event. The Commission provides technical support for the free webcasts.

FERC conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations please send an email to *accessibility@ferc.gov* or call toll free (866) 208–3372 (voice) or (202) 502–8659 (TTY), or send a fax to (202) 208–2106 with the required accommodations.

[1] *https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/events/increasing-market-and-planning-efficiency-through-improved-software-technical.*

For further information about the conference, please contact:

Daniel Wagner, Office of Technical Reporting and Economics, (202) 502–8934, *Daniel.Wagner@ferc.gov*

Paige Bradford, Office of Technical Reporting and Economics, (202) 502–8319, *Paige.Bradford@ferc.gov*

(Authority: 16 U.S.C. 825h)

Dated: July 2, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–13776 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. EL26–76–000]

Grid Growth Ohio, LLC, Grid Growth Ohio EHV, LLC; Notice of Institution of Section 206 Proceeding and Refund Effective Date

On July 2, 2026, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. EL26–76–000, pursuant to section 206 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 824e, instituting an investigation to determine whether Grid Growth Ohio, LLC's proposed Formula Rate Template is considered unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory or preferential, or otherwise unlawful. *Grid Growth Ohio, LLC,* 196 FERC ¶ 61,008 (2026).

The refund effective date in Docket No. EL26–76–000, 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. EL26–76–000 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 *mailto: 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 mail to: *OPP@ferc.gov*.

Dated: July 2, 2026.

Carlos D. Clay,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–13770 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717–01–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060–0850, OMB 3060–0920; FR ID 354812]

Information Collections Being Submitted for Review and Approval to Office of Management and Budget

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal Agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, the FCC

seeks specific comment on how it can further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted on or before August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent 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. Your comment must be submitted into *www.reginfo.gov* per the above instructions for it to be considered. In addition to submitting in *www.reginfo.gov* also send a copy of your comment on the proposed information collection to Cathy Williams, FCC, via email to *PRA@fcc.gov* and to *Cathy.Williams@fcc.gov.* Include in the comments the OMB control number as shown in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection, contact Cathy Williams at (202) 418–2918. To view a copy of this information collection request (ICR) submitted to OMB: (1) go to the web page *http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain,* (2) look for the section of the web page called ''Currently Under Review,'' (3) click on the downward-pointing arrow in the ''Select Agency'' box below the ''Currently Under Review'' heading, (4) select ''Federal Communications Commission'' from the list of agencies presented in the ''Select Agency'' box, (5) click the ''Submit'' button to the right of the ''Select Agency'' box, (6) when the list of FCC ICRs currently under review appears, look for the Title of this ICR and then click on the ICR Reference Number. A copy of the FCC submission to OMB will be displayed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), the FCC invited the general public and other Federal Agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107–198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4), the FCC seeks specific comment on how it might ''further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.''

OMB Control No.: 3060–0850.

Title: Quick-Form Application for Authorization in the Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Operator, and General Mobile Radio Services.

Form No.: FCC Form 605.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal government.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 130,000 respondents, 130,000 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 0.17 hours–0.44 hours.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement; third party disclosure requirement, recordkeeping & other (5 & 10 yrs).

Obligation To Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this collection of information is contained in 47 U.S.C. 154, 301, 4 and 301.

Total Annual Burden: 57,218 hours.

Total Respondent Cost: $4,550,000.

Needs and Uses: FCC 605 application is a consolidated application form for Ship, Aircraft, Amateur, Restricted and Commercial Radio Operators, and General Mobile Radio Services and is used to collect licensing data for the Universal Licensing System.

The data collected on this form includes the Date of Birth for Commercial Operator licensees however this information will be redacted from public view.

The FCC uses the information in FCC Form 605 to determine whether the applicant is legally, technically, and financially qualified to obtain a license. Without such information, the Commission cannot determine whether to issue the licenses to the applicants that provide telecommunication services to the public, and therefore, to fulfill its statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. Information provided on this form will also be used to update the database and to provide for proper use of the frequency spectrum as well as enforcement purposes.

OMB Control Number: 3060–0920.

Title: Form 2100, Schedule 318—Low Power FM Station Construction Permit Application; Report and Order in MM Docket No. 99–25 Creation of Low Power Radio Service; §§ 73.801, 73.807, 73.809, 73.810, 73.816, 73.827, 73.850, 73.865, 73.870, 73.871, 73.872, 73.877, 73.878, 73.318, 73.1030, 73.1207, 73.1212, 73.1300, 73.1350, 73.1610, 73.1620, 73.1750, 73.1943, 73.3525, 73.3550, 73.3598, 11.61(ii).

Form No.: Form 2100, Schedule 318.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions; State, local or Tribal governments.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 24,606 respondents with multiple responses; 31,324 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: .0025–12 hours.

Frequency of Response: Recordkeeping requirement; On occasion reporting requirement; Monthly reporting requirement; Third party disclosure requirement.

Obligation To Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. The statutory authority for this collection of information is contained in 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 303, 308 and 325(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Total Annual Burden: 52,889 hours.

Total Annual Cost: $1,229,370.

Needs and Uses: The Commission is requesting an extension of this information collection in order to receive approval/clearance from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for three years.

Form 2100, Schedule 318, Low Power FM (LPFM) Station Construction Permit Application (Schedule 318), is used to: (1) apply to construct a new Low Power FM (LPFM) broadcast station; (2) make changes to an authorized LPFM broadcast station; (3) amend a pending LPFM construction permit application; or (4) propose mandatory time-sharing.

Schedule 318's Online Notice (third party disclosure) Requirement: 47 CFR 73.3580, as amended in the Commission's 2020 Public Notice Second Report and Order, requires local public notice of the filing of all applications to construct a new LPFM

broadcast station. Notice is given by an applicant by posting notice of the application filing on its station website, its licensee website, its parent entity website, or on a publicly accessible, locally targeted website, for 30 consecutive days beginning within five business days of acceptance of the application for filing. The online notice must link to a copy of the application, as filed in the Commission's LMS licensing database. In the 2020 Public Notice Second Report and Order, the Commission also clarified LPFM stations' obligations to provide local public notice, and amended § 73.801 of the rules to indicate that the local public notice rule, 47 CFR 73.3580, applies to the LPFM service.

FCC staff uses the data to determine whether an applicant meets basic statutory and regulatory requirements to become a Commission licensee and to ensure that the public interest would be served by grant of the application. In addition, the information contained within this information collection ensures that (1) the integrity of the FM spectrum is not compromised, (2) unacceptable interference will not be caused to existing radio services, (3) statutory requirements are met, and (4) the stations operate in the public interest.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–13725 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060–1204; FR ID 354390]

Information Collection Being Submitted for Review and Approval to Office of Management and Budget

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal Agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, the FCC seeks specific comment on how it might further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted on or before August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent 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. Your comment must be submitted into *www.reginfo.gov* per the above instructions for it to be considered. In addition to submitting in *www.reginfo.gov* also send a copy of your comment on the proposed information collection to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email to *PRA@fcc.gov* and to *Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov.* Include in the comments the OMB control number as shown in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele at (202) 418–2991. To view a copy of this information collection request (ICR) submitted to OMB: (1) go to the web page *http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain,* (2) look for the section of the web page called ''Currently Under Review,'' (3) click on the downward-pointing arrow in the ''Select Agency'' box below the ''Currently Under Review'' heading, (4) select ''Federal Communications Commission'' from the list of agencies presented in the ''Select Agency'' box, (5) click the ''Submit'' button to the right of the ''Select Agency'' box, (6) when the list of FCC ICRs currently under review appears, look for the Title of this ICR and then click on the ICR Reference Number. A copy of the FCC submission to OMB will be displayed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), the FCC invited the general public and other Federal Agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107–198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4), the FCC seeks specific comment on how it might further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

OMB Control Number: 3060–1204.

Title: Deployment of Text-to-911.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit entities, and State, Local, or Tribal government.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 2,520 respondents; 55,094 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 1–8 hours.

Frequency of Response: One-time; annual reporting requirements and third-party disclosure requirement.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for these collections is contained in *47 U.S.C. 151,* 152, 154(i), 154(j), 154(o), 251(e), 303(b), 303(g), 303(r), 316, and 403, and Section 4 of the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999, Public Law 106–81, Sections 101 and 201 of the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110–283, and Section 106 of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Public Law 111–260, as amended 47 U.S.C. 615a, 615a–1, 615b, 615c.

Total Annual Burden: 91,260 hours.

Total Annual Cost: None.

Needs and Uses: Deployment of Text-to-911. In a Second Report and Order released on August 13, 2014, FCC 14–118, published at *79 FR 55367,* September 16, 2014, the Commission adopted final rules—containing information collection requirements—to enable the Commission to implement text-to-911 service. The text-to-911 rules provide enhanced access to emergency services for people with disabilities and fulfilling a crucial role as an alternative means of emergency communication for the general public in situations where sending a text message to 911 as opposed to placing a voice call could be vital to the caller's safety. The Second Report and Order adopted rules to commence the implementation of text-

to-911 service with an initial deadline of December 31, 2014 for all covered text providers to be capable of supporting text-to-911 service. The Second Report and Order also provided that covered text providers would then have a six-month implementation period. They must begin routing all 911 text messages to a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) by June 30, 2015 or within six months of a valid PSAP request for text-to-911 service, whichever is later. To implement these requirements, the Commission seeks to collect information primarily for a database in which PSAPs voluntarily register that they are technically ready to receive text messages to 911. As PSAPs become text-ready, they may either register in the PSAP database (or submit a notification to PS Docket Nos. 10–255 and 11–153), or provide other written notification reasonably acceptable to a covered text messaging provider. Either measure taken by the PSAP constitutes sufficient notification pursuant to the rules in the Second Report and Order. PSAPs and covered text providers may also agree to an alternative implementation timeframe (other than six months). Covered text providers must notify the FCC of the dates and terms of any such alternate timeframe within 30 days of the parties' agreement. Additionally, the rules adopted by the Second Report and Order include other information collections for third party notifications necessary for the implementation of text-to-911, including notifications to consumers, covered text providers, and the Commission. These notifications are essential to ensure that all affected parties are aware of the limitations, capabilities, and status of text-to-911 services. These information collections enable the Commission to meet the objectives for implementation of text-to-911 service and for compliance by covered text providers with the six-month implementation period in furtherance of the Commission's core mission to ensure the public's safety. These rules are codified at 47 CFR 9.10(q).

Real Time Text. In a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, released on December 16, 2016, in CG Docket No. 16–145 and GN Docket No. 15–178, the Commission amended its rules to facilitate a transition from text telephone (TTY) technology to RTT as a reliable and interoperable universal text solution over wireless internet protocol (IP) enabled networks for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have a speech disability. Section 9.10(c) of the rules requires Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) providers to be ''capable of transmitting 911 calls from individuals with speech or hearing disabilities through means other than mobile radio handsets, *e.g.,* through the use of [TTY devices].'' Additionally, ''CMRS providers that provide voice communications over IP facilities are not required to support 911 access via TTYs if they provide 911 access via [RTT] communications, in accordance with 47 CFR part 67, except that RTT support is not required to the extent that it is not achievable for a particular manufacturer to support RTT on the provider's network.'' See 47 CFR 9.10(c). The Commission's Report and Order provides that once a PSAP is so capable, the requested service provider must begin delivering RTT communications in an RTT format within six months after a valid request is made—to the extent the provider has selected RTT as its accessible text communication method.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2026–13724 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Change in Bank Control Notices; Acquisitions of Shares of a Bank or Bank Holding Company

The notificants listed below have applied under the Change in Bank Control Act (Act) (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)) and § 225.41 of the Board's Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.41) to acquire shares of a bank or bank holding company. The factors that are considered in acting on the applications are set forth in paragraph 7 of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(7)).

The public portions of the applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, if any, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank(s) indicated below and at the offices of the Board of Governors. This information may also be obtained on an expedited basis, upon request, by contacting the appropriate Federal Reserve Bank and from the Board's Freedom of Information Office at *https://www.federalreserve.gov/foia/request.htm.* Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in paragraph 7 of the Act.

Comments received are subject to public disclosure. In general, comments received will be made available without change and will not be modified to remove personal or business information including confidential, contact, or other identifying information. Comments should not include any information such as confidential information that would not be appropriate for public disclosure.

Comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors, Benjamin W. McDonough, Secretary of the Board, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20551–0001, not later than July 23, 2026.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Mark Nagle, Assistant Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480–0291. Comments can also be sent electronically to *MA@mpls.frb.org:*

1. *Amy J. Regan, Hastings, Minnesota; Robert O. Regan and Donald O. Regan, both of Stillwater, Minnesota; Erin M. Miller and Jeffrey W. Miller, both of Lake Elmo, Minnesota; Andrew D. Nath and Darby O. Regan, both of North St. Paul, Minnesota; Frances D. Regan, Seamus O. Regan, and Bridget M. Nath, all of Chicago, Illinois; Conor C. M. Nath, Seattle, Washington; and Emmet W. Nath and Fiona J. Nath, both of Minneapolis, Minnesota;* to join the Regan Family Control Group, a group acting in concert, to acquire voting shares of PB Bancshares, Inc., and thereby acquire voting shares of Premier Bank, both of Maplewood, Minnesota.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Michele Taylor Fennell,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2026–13798 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–1866–N]

Medicare Program; Announcement of the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment Meeting—August 24, 2026

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the virtual meeting of the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment (the Panel) on Monday, August 24, 2026. The purpose of the Panel is to advise the Secretary of the Department of Health

and Human Services on the clinical integrity of the Ambulatory Payment Classification groups and their associated weights, which are major elements of the Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and the Ambulatory Surgical Center payment system, and supervision of hospital outpatient therapeutic services. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES:

Virtual Meeting Dates: Monday, August 24, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The time listed in this notice is approximate. Consequently, the meeting may be longer or shorter than the times listed in this notice, but will not begin before the posted time.

Deadline for presentations and comments: Presentations or comment letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, July 31, 2026. Presentations or comment letters must be submitted through the ''Hospital Outpatient Payment (HOP) Panel Meeting Presentation & Comment Letters'' module. To access the module, go to *https://mearis.cms.gov* to register, log in, and submit your presentation or comment letter. CMS can only accept HOP Panel Meeting presentations and comment letters that are submitted via MEARIS™. Please note that with the submissions in MEARIS™, CMS no longer requires the completion or submission of form CMS–20017 as part of the presentation or comment letter package. Therefore, submitters do not need to complete this form.

Presentations and comment letters that are not received by the due date and time will be considered late or incomplete and will not be included in the agenda. Presentations and comment letters may not be revised once they are submitted. If a presentation or comment letter requires changes, a new submittal must be submitted by July 31, 2026.

Please see additional information regarding the submission of section 508 compliant presentation and comment letter materials in section ''III. Presentations and Comment Letters'' of this notice.

ADDRESSES:

Virtual meeting location and webinar: The August 24, 2026, meeting will be held virtually. Closed captioning will be available on the webinar. Request for electronic meeting accommodations can be sent to *APCPanel@cms.hhs.gov.* Webinar and listen-only teleconference information, including instructions on how to connect, will appear on the final meeting agenda, which will be posted on our website when available at *https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/FACA/AdvisoryPanelonAmbulatoryPaymentClassificationGroups.*

Websites: For additional information on the Panel, including the Panel charter, and updates to the Panel's activities, we refer readers to view our website at *https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/FACA/AdvisoryPanelonAmbulatoryPaymentClassificationGroups.* Information about the Panel and its membership in the Federal Advisory Committee Act database are located at *https://www.facadatabase.gov.*

Virtual meeting registration: While there is no meeting registration, presenters must be identified and included as part of the MEARIS™ presentation submission process by the presentation and comment letter deadline specified in the **DATES** section of this notice. We note that no advanced registration is required for participants who plan to view the Panel meeting, or may wish to make a public comment during the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Abigail Cesnik, Designated Federal Official by email at *APCPanel@cms.hhs.gov.* Press inquiries are handled through the CMS Press Office at (202) 690–6145.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) is required by section 1833(t)(9)(A) of the Social Security Act (the Act) and is allowed by section 222 of the Public Health Service Act to consult with an expert outside panel, such as the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment (the Panel), regarding the clinical integrity of the Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) groups and relative payment weights. The Panel is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463), as amended (5 U.S.C. Chapter 10), to set forth standards for the formation and use of advisory panels. We consider the technical advice provided by the Panel as we prepare the final rule and the following calendar year's proposed rule to update the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS).

II. Virtual Meeting Agenda

The agenda for the August 24, 2026, virtual Panel meeting will provide for discussion and comment on the following topics as designated in the Panel's Charter:

- Addressing whether procedures within an APC group are similar both clinically and in terms of resource use.
- Reconfiguring APCs.
- Evaluating APC group weights.
- Reviewing packaging costs of items and services, including drugs and devices, into procedures and services, including the methodology for packaging and the impact of packaging the cost of those items and services on APC group structure and payment.
- Removing procedures from the Inpatient Only list for payment under the OPPS.
- Using claims and cost report data for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) determination of APC group costs.
- Addressing other technical issues concerning APC group structure.
- Evaluating the required level of supervision for hospital outpatient services.
- Evaluating OPPS APC rates for covered Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) procedures.

The agenda will be posted on our website at *https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/FACA/AdvisoryPanelonAmbulatoryPaymentClassificationGroups* approximately 1 week before the meeting.

Virtual Meeting Information Updates: The actual meeting hours and days will be posted in the agenda. As information and updates regarding this webinar and listen-only teleconference, including the agenda, become available, they will be posted to our website at *https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/FACA/AdvisoryPanelonAmbulatoryPaymentClassificationGroups.*

III. Presentations and Comment Letters

The subject matter of any presentation and comment letter must be within the scope of the Panel as designated in the Charter. Any presentations or comments outside of the scope of the Panel will be returned or requested for amendment. Unrelated topics include, but are not limited to: the conversion factor; charge compression; revisions to the cost report; pass-through payments; correct coding; new technology applications (including supporting information/documentation); provider payment adjustments; supervision of hospital outpatient diagnostic services; and the types of practitioners that are permitted to supervise hospital outpatient services. The Panel may not recommend that services be designated as nonsurgical extended duration therapeutic services. Presentations or comment letters that address OPPS APC rates as they relate to covered ASC procedures are within the scope of the Panel; however, ASC payment rates,

ASC payment indicators, the ASC covered procedures list, or other ASC payment system matters will be considered out of scope. The Panel may use data collected or developed by entities and organizations other than the Department of Health and Human Services or CMS in conducting its review. We recommend organizations submit data for CMS staff and the Panel's review. All presentations are limited to 5 minutes, regardless of the number of individuals or organizations represented by a single presentation. Presenters may use their 5 minutes to present either one or more agenda items.

Section 508 Compliance

For this meeting, we are aiming to have all presentations and comment letters available on our website. Materials on our website must be section 508 compliant to ensure access to Federal employees and members of the public. Presenters and commenters should reference the guidance on making documents section 508 compliant as they draft their submissions, and, whenever possible, submit their presentations and comment letters in a 508 compliant form. The section 508 guidance is available at *https://www.cms.gov/research-statistics-data-and-systems/cms-information-technology/section508.* Presentations and comment letters should limit the use of graphs or pictures. Any use of these visual depictions must include alternate text that verbally describes what these visuals convey.

We will review presentations and comment letters for section 508 compliance and place compliant materials on our website. As resources permit, we will also convert non-compliant submissions to section 508-compliant forms and offer assistance to submitters who are making their submissions section 508-compliant. All section 508-compliant presentations and comment letters will be made available on the CMS website. If difficulties are encountered accessing the materials, please contact the Designated Federal Official in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

IV. Virtual Formal Presentations

In addition to formal presentations (limited to 5 minutes total per presentation), there will be an opportunity during the meeting for public comments as time permits (limited to 1 minute for each individual and a total of 3 minutes per organization).

V. Panel Recommendations and Discussions

The Panel's recommendations at any Panel meeting generally are not final until they have been reviewed and approved by the Panel on the last day of the meeting, prior to the final adjournment. These recommendations will be posted to our website after the meeting.

VI. Membership Appointments to the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment

The Panel Charter provides that the Panel shall meet up to 3 times annually. We consider the technical advice provided by the Panel as we prepare the OPPS proposed and final rules to update the OPPS for the following calendar year. The Panel shall consist of a chair and up to 15 members who are full-time employees of hospitals, hospital systems, or other Medicare providers that are subject to the OPPS. The Panel may also include a representative of a provider with ASC expertise, who advises CMS only on OPPS APC rates, as appropriate, impacting ASC covered procedures within the context and purview of the Panel's scope. The Secretary or a designee selects the Panel membership based upon either self-nominations or nominations submitted by Medicare providers and other interested organizations of candidates determined to have the required expertise. For supervision deliberations, the Panel may include members that represent the interests of critical access hospitals, who advise CMS only regarding the level of supervision for hospital outpatient therapeutic services. New appointments are made in a manner that ensures a balanced membership under the Federal Advisory Committee Act guidelines. The Secretary rechartered the Panel in 2024 for a 2-year period effective through November 20, 2026. The current charter is available on the CMS website at *https://www.cms.gov/files/document/2024-hop-panel-charter.pdf.* The Panel consists of the following current members and a Chair:

- E.L. Hambrick, MD, JD, CMS Chairperson.
- Jennifer Artigue, RHIT, CCS.
- Becky Bean, BS, MHA/MBA, PharmD.
- Nancy Dawson, MD, FACP.
- Blake Dirksen, MS, DABR.
- Brandon Fazio, BS.
- Scott Manaker, MD, Ph.D.
- Rahul Seth, DO, FASCO.
- Wendi Smith Lloyd, CPC, COC, CPMA, COSC.
- William Tettelbach, MD, FACP, FIDSA, FUHM, MAPWCA, CWSP.
- Caroline Zeller, DDS, MPH.

New Appointments to the Panel

New members of the Panel and their terms are as follows:

- Adam Levin, MD, MBA. Term: June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2030.
- Douglas O'Brien. Term: June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2030.

We currently accept nominations on a continuous basis to fill upcoming panel vacancies. We encourage additional submissions. Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals. Self-nominations from qualified individuals are also accepted. Nominations must be submitted through the ''Hospital Outpatient Payment (HOP) Panel Member Nomination'' module on MEARIS™. To access the module, visit *https://mearis.cms.gov* to register, log in, and submit your nomination. We can only accept HOP Panel Member nominations that are submitted via MEARIS™.

VII. Collection of Information Requirements

This document does not impose information collection requirements, that is, reporting, recordkeeping or third-party disclosure requirements. Consequently, there is no need for review by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Dr. Mehmet Oz, having reviewed and approved this document, authorizes Vanessa Garcia, who is the Federal Register Liaison, to electronically sign this document for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Vanessa Garcia,

Federal Register Liaison, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

[FR Doc. 2026–13793 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4169–69–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA–2026–N–6655]

Medical Device User Fee Amendments; Public Meeting; Request for Comments

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, the Agency, or we) is announcing a hybrid public

meeting titled ''Medical Device User Fee Amendments.'' The purpose of the public meeting is to discuss proposed recommendations for the reauthorization of the Medical Device User Fee Amendments (MDUFA) for fiscal years (FYs) 2028 through 2032. MDUFA authorizes FDA to collect fees and use them for the process for the review of device applications. The current legislative authority for MDUFA expires September 30, 2027. At that time, new legislation will be required for FDA to continue collecting device user fees in future fiscal years. Following discussions with the device industry and periodic consultations with public stakeholders, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) directs FDA to publish the recommendations for the reauthorized program in the **Federal Register**, hold a meeting at which the public may present its views on such recommendations, and provide for a period of 30 days for the public to provide written comments on such recommendations. FDA will then consider such public views and comments and revise such recommendations as necessary.

DATES: The public meeting will be held in person and virtually on August 5, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Time. The draft commitment letter is posted in the docket and also on this website at: *https://www.fda.gov/industry/medical-device-user-fee-amendments-mdufa-fees/medical-device-user-fee-amendments-2028-mdufa-vi.* The docket will close 30 days after those documents are made publicly available. Submit electronic or written comments to the public docket within 30 days of publication. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for registration date and information.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in person at the FDA White Oak Campus, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Building 31 Conference Center, the White Oak Great Room, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002 and virtually using the Microsoft Teams platform. Entrance for the public meeting participants (non-FDA employees) is through Building 1 where routine security check procedures will be performed. Participants must be REAL ID compliant to access federal facilities. For additional information regarding REAL ID, refer to *https://www.dhs.gov/real-id/real-id-faqs.* For security and parking information, please refer to *https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/visitor-information/public-meeting-information* and *https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/visitor-information/visitor-parking-and-campus-map.*

You may submit comments as follows. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered. The *https://www.regulations.gov* electronic filing system will accept comments until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, 30 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Comments received by mail/hand delivery/courier (for written/paper submissions) will be considered timely if they are received on or before that date.

Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to *https://www.regulations.gov* will be posted to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on *https://www.regulations.gov.*
- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see ''Written/Paper Submissions'' and ''Instructions'').

Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):* Dockets Management Staff (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in ''Instructions.''

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA–2026–N–6655 for ''Medical Device User Fee Amendments; Public Meeting; Request for Comments.'' Received comments, those filed in a timely manner (see **ADDRESSES**), will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as ''Confidential Submissions,'' publicly viewable at *https://www.regulations.gov* or at the Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240–402–7500.

- Confidential Submissions—To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states ''THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.'' The Agency will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on *https://www.regulations.gov.* Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify this information as ''confidential.'' Any information marked as ''confidential'' will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: *https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf.*

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper 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: Nia Ramsey, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 66, Rm. 5422, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, 301–796–5424, *MDUFAVIReauthorization@fda.hhs.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

FDA is announcing a hybrid public meeting to discuss proposed recommendations for the

reauthorization of MDUFA, which authorizes FDA to collect user fees to support the process for the review of device applications, which reaches various components in FDA, including the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), the Office of the Commissioner (OC), and the Office of Inspections and Investigations (OII). The current authorization of the program (MDUFA V) expires September 30, 2027. At that time, new legislation will be required for FDA to continue collecting device user fees for future fiscal years to provide funds for the process for the review of device applications. As required by section 738A(b)(1), (2), (3), and (7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 379j–1(b)(2), (3), and (7)), FDA obtained prior public input and negotiated an agreement with regulated industry while periodically consulting with scientific and academic experts, health care professionals, and representatives of patient and consumer advocacy groups, and making minutes of negotiation and stakeholder consultation meetings publicly available. Section 738A(b)(5) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C. 379j–1(b)(5)) requires that, after holding negotiations with regulated industry, FDA take the following actions: (1) present the recommendations to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the U.S. Senate; (2) publish the recommendations in the **Federal Register***;* (3) provide a period of 30 days for the public to submit written comments on the recommendations; (4) hold a meeting at which the public may present its views on the recommendations; and (5) after consideration of public views and comments, revise the recommendations as necessary. This notice, the 30-day comment period, and the public meeting will satisfy parts of these requirements. After the public meeting and 30-day comment period, FDA will revise the recommendations as necessary. In addition, the Agency will present the recommendations to the Congressional committees.

The purpose of the meeting is for the public to present its views on the proposed recommendations for the reauthorized program (MDUFA VI). In general, the meeting format will include a brief presentation by FDA, but will focus on hearing from different stakeholder interest groups (such as patient advocates, consumer advocates, industry, health care professionals, and scientific and academic experts). The Agency will also provide an opportunity for individuals to make presentations at the meeting and for organizations and individuals to submit written comments to the docket before and after the meeting. The following information is provided to help potential meeting participants better understand the history and evolution of the medical device user fee program and the current status of the proposed MDUFA VI recommendations.

II. MDUFA V Performance Summary

The MDUFA V agreement enabled FDA to continue making progress on reducing review times and bringing devices to patients more quickly, while also enabling FDA to move forward in critical areas. FDA's performance was strong during the first year of MDUFA V (FY 2023), meeting almost all MDUFA V commitment letter goals and working to reduce the time for patients to have access to safe, new, innovative devices. During this time, FDA achieved all 14 of our submission review goals for which sufficient submissions were received to calculate performance, met 15 of 16 performance enhancement goals, and FDA and industry met one of two shared outcome goals.

FDA's performance continues to be strong during the second and third year of MDUFA V (FY 2024 and FY 2025). Preliminary performance data through September 30, 2025, including completed and pending reviews, indicate that FDA has met, or has the potential to meet, all 15 of the FDA's submission review goals for FY 2024 and all 13 of the FDA's submission review goals for FY 2025 for which FDA received sufficient submissions to calculate performance. FDA and industry missed one shared outcome goal for FY 2024; the remaining FY 2024 goal and both FY 2025 shared outcome goals are not yet sufficiently complete to determine the outcome. In addition, FDA had 16 performance enhancement goals due in FY 2024, of which 15 were completed on time and one was completed late. In FY 2025, FDA had 18 performance enhancement goals, of which 14 were completed on time, and four were missed.

Information about FDA's performance is available in the yearly and quarterly MDUFA performance reports, which are online at: *http://www.fda.gov/about-fda/user-fee-performance-reports/mdufa-performance-reports* and *http://www.fda.gov/industry/medical-device-user-fee-amendments-mdufa/mdufa-reports.*

User fees and related performance goals have played an important role in providing resources and supporting the management systems to ensure that safe and effective medical devices are available to patients in a timely manner.

III. Proposed MDUFA VI Recommendations

In preparing the proposed recommendations to Congress for MDUFA reauthorization, FDA conducted discussions with the device industry and consulted with stakeholders, as required by the FD&C Act. The Agency began the MDUFA reauthorization process by publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** requesting public input on the reauthorization and announcing a public meeting that was held on August 4, 2025. The meeting included presentations by FDA, and a series of panels with representatives of different stakeholder groups, including patient and consumer advocacy groups, regulated industry, and health care professionals. The materials from the meeting, including presentation slides and a transcript, can be found at: *https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/medical-devices-news-and-events/register-fdas-public-meeting-reauthorization-medical-device-user-fee-amendments-08042025.*

From October 2025 through March 2026, FDA conducted negotiations with representatives of the device industry: the Advanced Medical Technology Association and the Medical Device Manufacturers Association. During negotiations with regulated industry, FDA also held monthly consultations with representatives of patient and consumer advocacy groups, health care professionals, and scientific and academic experts. Minutes of these meetings are posted on FDA's website at: *https://www.fda.gov/industry/medical-device-user-fee-amendments-mdufa-fees/medical-device-user-fee-amendments-2028-mdufa-vi.*

The proposed recommendations for MDUFA VI address many priorities identified by stakeholders and generally build on successful enhancements or refine elements from the existing program. Significant recommendations are briefly described below with reference to the applicable section of the draft commitment letter. FDA notes that until the final commitment letter is published the recommendations remain subject to change.

A. Shared Outcome Goals

FDA proposes to continue reporting, on an annual basis, the average Total Time to Decision for premarket approval

applications (PMAs) and 510(k) submissions, with a shared outcome goal of 285 calendar days for original PMA and panel-track supplement submissions throughout FYs 2028 through 2032, and a 510(k) shared outcome goal that ramps down from 128 calendar days in FY 2028 to 112 calendar days by FY 2032. Additional details regarding the shared outcome goals can be found in Section I of the draft commitment letter.

B. Review Performance Goals

The draft MDUFA VI commitment letter largely maintains the review performance goals established by the end of MDUFA V, reflecting FDA's commitment to sustaining the high level of review performance achieved over the course of the prior agreement. The core decision and interaction goals for the majority of submission types—including Original PMAs, 180-Day and Real-Time PMA Supplements, 510(k)s, CLIA Waiver by Application submissions, and all biologics license application-related submission types—remain unchanged from MDUFA V.

C. Pre-Submissions

FDA proposes to continue the Pre-Submission program under MDUFA VI to address increasing submission volume, maintaining a performance goal of providing written feedback on at least 90 percent of Pre-Submissions within 70 days or 5 calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting, whichever comes sooner, for up to 5,000 submissions per fiscal year. A significant new feature of MDUFA VI is the introduction of Focused Follow-Up Pre-Submissions—a new, faster-turnaround submission type intended to address targeted follow-up questions related to a prior Pre-Submission, with a written response provided within 45 calendar days of receipt. In conjunction with the proposed enhancements and performance goals outlined in the draft commitment letter, FDA and industry agreed to proposed changes to the FD&C Act to include a fee for initial Pre-Submissions, to promote efficient use of the program, and for which sponsors will later receive a corresponding credit on certain related subsequent marketing submission fees. Additional details regarding Pre-Submissions can be found in Section II.A of the draft commitment letter.

D. De Novo Requests

FDA proposes to maintain a De Novo decision goal of 90 percent of De Novo requests receiving a MDUFA decision within 150 FDA days. MDUFA VI introduces a structured Introduction Meeting between FDA and the applicant within the first 30 FDA days of review, intended to promote early alignment and review efficiency, and recognizes the possibility of issuance of a ''Not Grantable'' letter, with a final determination to decline or grant the submission within 75 calendar days but no longer than 90 calendar days after receipt of the response to the not grantable letter. Additional details regarding De Novo requests can be found in Section II.E of the draft commitment letter.

E. Infrastructure

FDA proposes several infrastructure enhancements under MDUFA VI to support the process for the review of device applications. FDA will continue to recruit, hire, and retain sufficient technical and scientific staff and will leverage contractual support. MDUFA VI also facilitates significant enhancements to IT infrastructure, including improvements to the Customer Collaboration Portal, development of an interactive Navigator tool to guide stakeholders to appropriate communication channels, and a new online mechanism for direct engagement between FDA and applicants. A key element of MDUFA VI is the establishment of a Resource Capacity Planning and Management capability to support data-driven resource management decisions, with an Implementation Plan to be published by March 31, 2029. FDA also proposes changes to optimize MDUFA's statutory appropriation and spending trigger provisions. Additional details regarding infrastructure can be found in Section III of the draft commitment letter.

F. Deficiency Letters

To support improved communication in letters requesting additional information, FDA will continue to train staff and managers on applicable guidance and best practices for clear and least burdensome deficiency communication, and will maintain a performance goal of providing a statement of the basis for the deficiency in 95 percent of deficiency letters each fiscal year for Original PMA, Panel-Track Supplement, 510(k) and De Novo request submissions. A new feature of MDUFA VI is the development of a survey for recipients of deficiency letters to gather feedback on deficiency communication quality, with results used to inform improvement activities. Additional details can be found in Section IV.B of the draft commitment letter.

G. Review Consistency

A new commitment under MDUFA VI, FDA proposes to advance efforts to improve review consistency to facilitate efficient, effective, and appropriately consistent submission review practices across and within Offices of Health Technology (OHTs). FDA proposes to make improvements in at least one specific, high-impact topic area each fiscal year, with a minimum of eight topics addressed across the five-year period. Each fiscal year, industry will provide FDA with a prioritized list of topic areas for consideration, and FDA will report annually to industry on the actions taken and their effectiveness. Additional details regarding review consistency can be found in Section IV.C of the draft commitment letter.

H. Enhanced Use of Consensus Standards

FDA proposes to further mature the Accreditation Scheme for Conformity Assessment (ASCA) program by expanding the range of standards and device categories covered, enhancing training for staff and accredited testing laboratories, and working with stakeholders on programmatic improvements. FDA also proposes to advance the development and recognition of regulatory-ready consensus standards, including through enhanced reviewer training, improvements to review tools and templates, and continued development of regulatory science tools. The draft MDUFA VI commitment letter emphasizes public-private collaboration in the development and optimization of consensus standards, committing FDA to attend industry meetings at least twice annually to discuss standards of mutual interest, work with industry and testing laboratory representatives to improve the reproducibility and repeatability of analytical methods, and engage with stakeholders to identify opportunities to ensure standards are regulatory-ready and optimized for regulatory use. Additional details regarding the enhanced use of consensus standards can be found in Section IV.D of the draft commitment letter.

I. Third Party Review Program

FDA proposes to continue to support the Third Party Review program with the objective of eliminating routine re-review by FDA. FDA will continue to provide training for Third Parties seeking accreditation, audit and provide tailored re-training to accredited Third Parties, and publish performance of individual accredited Third Parties on

FDA's website. Additional details regarding the Third Party Review program can be found in Section IV.E of the draft commitment letter.

J. Patient Science and Engagement

FDA proposes to continue to advance the Patient Science and Engagement program by expanding scientific expertise and staff capacity to respond to growing submission volume and complexity of patient science data, expanding training internally and externally on clinical outcome assessments and patient engagement in device clinical studies, supporting the use of innovative technologies to capture patient perspectives and reduce patient burden, and developing case examples of the use and impact of patient-generated health data (PGHD) in device development. Additional details regarding patient science and engagement can be found in Section IV.F of the draft commitment letter.

K. Real World Evidence (RWE)

FDA proposes to continue to advance the development of Real-World Data (RWD) and RWE methods and approaches to support regulatory acceptance for premarket submissions, with user fee revenue devoted solely to premarket RWE activities. FDA will continue to advance CDRH's RWD/RWE training program, update stakeholders on RWE program activities at two or more open public meetings during the course of MDUFA VI, and annually publish examples of market authorization decisions that relied on RWD/RWE. FDA will continue to invest in National Evaluation System for Health Technology activity and hire internal RWE experts across OHTs to support consistent and coordinated review of RWD/RWE-related submissions. Additional details regarding RWE can be found in Section IV.G of the draft commitment letter.

L. Digital Health

FDA proposes to continue building its digital health expertise and working to streamline and align FDA review processes with software lifecycles for digital health products, principally through the Digital Health Center of Excellence. Key proposed actions include expanding technical expertise to address rapidly evolving digital health technologies; strengthening reviewer training for consistent, high-quality reviews; and engaging with stakeholders through formal and informal mechanisms to explore regulatory approaches to emerging digital health technologies. Additional details regarding digital health can be found in Section IV.H of the draft commitment letter.

M. International Harmonization

A significant new feature of MDUFA VI is a proposed pilot in which the same device with the same intended use is submitted simultaneously to FDA and at least two other medical device regulatory authorities to support coordinated premarket review, with results to be evaluated and published by September 30, 2030. FDA proposes to advance efforts to promote appropriate reliance on scientific assessments performed by trusted regulatory authorities and to publish an Implementation Plan for international harmonization activities by the end of FY 2028. FDA also proposes to enhance international harmonization activities by expanding attendance, support, and leadership of international organizations of global importance, including the International Medical Device Regulators Forum. Additional details regarding international harmonization can be found in Section IV.I of the draft commitment letter.

N. Total Product Life Cycle (TPLC) Advisory Program (TAP)

Building on lessons learned from the TAP Pilot established under MDUFA V, FDA proposes to transition to a sustainable, full TAP program covering all product areas, with voluntary enrollment targeted to eligible devices across all OHTs no later than October 1, 2027. TAP will continue to focus on enhancing the Breakthrough Device review experience by providing more timely and robust premarket interactions, facilitating improved strategic decision-making during device development, and collaborating to align expectations regarding evidence generation and submission quality. A new feature of MDUFA VI is focused engagement and collaboration between FDA and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for technologies for which a new coverage determination would be beneficial. Additional details regarding TAP can be found in Section IV.J of the draft commitment letter.

O. Performance Reports

FDA proposes to continue to report quarterly and annually on performance against commitments, including submission review metrics at the OHT and Center level, staffing and hiring data, guidance document status, fee collections, and progress on key program areas including TAP, RWE, international harmonization, ASCA, and review consistency. Additional details regarding performance reporting can be found in Section V of the draft commitment letter.

Additional commitments not summarized above are described in the full MDUFA VI commitment letter, available at: *https://www.fda.gov/industry/medical-device-user-fee-amendments-mdufa-fees/medical-device-user-fee-amendments-2028-mdufa-vi*.

FDA will post the agenda approximately 5 days before the meeting at: *https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/medical-devices-news-and-events/register-fdas-public-meeting-reauthorization-medical-device-user-fee-amendments-08052026*.

Registration: Registration is free and based on space availability, with priority given to early registrants. People interested in attending the Medical Device User Fee Amendments public meeting must register online by 4 p.m. July 20, 2026. Early registration is recommended because seating is limited and, therefore, FDA may limit the number of participants from each organization. If time and space permit, onsite registration will be provided on the day of the meeting beginning at 8 a.m. If you need special accommodation because of a disability, please contact Nia Ramsey (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) no later than July 17, 2026. To register for the meeting, please visit: *https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/medical-devices-news-and-events/register-fdas-public-meeting-reauthorization-medical-device-user-fee-amendments-08052026*. Please provide complete contact information for each attendee, including name, title, affiliation, email, and telephone number. Registrants will receive confirmation after they have been accepted.

Opportunity for Public Comment: Those who register will have an opportunity to participate in the public comment session of the meeting. If you wish to speak during the public comment session, follow the instructions in the notification and identify which topic(s) you wish to address. All requests to make public comments during the meeting must be received by July 20, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. We will do our best to accommodate requests to make public comments. Individuals and organizations with common interests are urged to consolidate or coordinate comment and request time jointly. We will determine the amount of time allotted to each commenter, and the approximate time each comment is to begin, and will select and notify participants by July 27, 2026. If selected for presentation, any presentation

materials must be emailed to Nia Ramsey (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) no later than July 30, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. No commercial or promotional material will be permitted to be presented at the public meeting.

FDA is holding this meeting to provide information on the proposed recommendations for the reauthorization of MDUFA for FYs 2028 through 2032. In order to permit the widest possible opportunity to obtain public comment, FDA is soliciting either electronic or written comments on all aspects of the meeting topics. The docket will remain open 30 days after the publication of this notice. The draft commitment letter is posted in the docket and also on this website at: *https://www.fda.gov/industry/medical-device-user-fee-amendments-mdufa-fees/medical-device-user-fee-amendments-2028-mdufa-vi.*

Streaming Webcast of the Public Meeting: This meeting will also be webcast. The meeting link is: *https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDY3YWY1MDctNDU2MS00YjQyLTg2MTAtMmU3OGVjMzgzMDJl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227d2fdb41-339c-4257-87f2-a665730b31fc%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f46007e5-06e8-46b8-8ed0-45459ca51924%22%7d.* Organizations are requested to register all participants, but to view using one connection per location.

Transcripts: Please be advised that as soon as a transcript of the public meeting is available, it will be accessible in the docket at *http://www.regulations.gov.* It may be viewed at the Division of Dockets Management (see **ADDRESSES**). A link to the transcripts will also be available on the internet at: *https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/medical-devices-news-and-events/register-fdas-public-meeting-reauthorization-medical-device-user-fee-amendments-08052026.*

Notice of this meeting is given pursuant to 21 CFR 10.65.

Grace R. Graham,

Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026–13778 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4164–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA–2026–N–7231]

Cellular, Tissue, and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting; Establishment of a Public Docket; Request for Comments—Biologics License Application (BLA) 125827, From Replimune, Inc. for Vusolimogene Oderparepvec

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice; establishment of a public docket; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announces a forthcoming public advisory committee meeting of the Cellular, Tissue, and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee (the Committee). The general function of the Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to FDA on regulatory issues. The meeting will be open to the public. FDA is establishing a docket for public comment on this document.

DATES: The meeting will be held on July 30, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: All meeting participants will be heard, viewed, captioned, and recorded for this advisory committee meeting via an online teleconferencing and/or video conferencing platform. Answers to commonly asked questions about FDA advisory committee meetings may be accessed at: *https://www.fda.gov/AdvisoryCommittees/AboutAdvisoryCommittees/ucm408555.htm.*

The online web conference meeting will be available at the following link on the day of the meeting at: *https://youtube.com/live/7x4xuKJti1o?feature=share.*

FDA is establishing a docket for public comment on this meeting. The docket number is FDA–2026–N–7231. The docket will close on July 29, 2026. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered. The *https://www.regulations.gov* electronic filing system will accept comments until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time at the end of July 29, 2026. Comments received by mail/hand delivery/courier (for written/paper submissions) will be considered timely if they are received on or before that date.

Comments received on or before July 20, 2026, will be provided to the Committee. Comments received after that date will be taken into consideration by FDA. In the event that the meeting is cancelled, FDA will continue to evaluate any relevant applications or information, and consider any comments submitted to the docket, as appropriate.

You may submit comments as follows:

Electronic Submissions

Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to the docket unchanged. Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as medical information, your or anyone else's Social Security number, or confidential business information, such as a manufacturing process. Please note that if you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be posted on *https://www.regulations.gov.*
- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission and in the manner detailed (see ''Written/Paper Submissions'' and ''Instructions'').

Written/Paper Submissions

Submit written/paper submissions as follows:

- *Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier (for written/paper submissions):* Dockets Management Staff (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.
- For written/paper comments submitted to the Dockets Management Staff, FDA will post your comment, as well as any attachments, except for information submitted, marked and identified, as confidential, if submitted as detailed in ''Instructions.''

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket No. FDA–2026–N–7231 for ''Cellular, Tissue, and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting; Establishment of a Public Docket; Request for Comments—Biologics License Application (BLA) 125827, from Replimune, Inc. for vusolimogene oderparepvec. Received comments, those filed in a timely manner (see **ADDRESSES**), will be placed in the docket and, except for those submitted as ''Confidential Submissions,'' publicly viewable at *https://www.regulations.gov* or at the

Dockets Management Staff between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, 240–402–7500.

• *Confidential Submissions*—To submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made publicly available, submit your comments only as a written/paper submission. You should submit two copies total. One copy will include the information you claim to be confidential with a heading or cover note that states ''THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.'' FDA will review this copy, including the claimed confidential information, in its consideration of comments. The second copy, which will have the claimed confidential information redacted/blacked out, will be available for public viewing and posted on *https://www.regulations.gov.* Submit both copies to the Dockets Management Staff. If you do not wish your name and contact information to be made publicly available, you can provide this information on the cover sheet and not in the body of your comments and you must identify the information as ''confidential.'' Any information marked as ''confidential'' will not be disclosed except in accordance with 21 CFR 10.20 and other applicable disclosure law. For more information about FDA's posting of comments to public dockets, see 80 FR 56469, September 18, 2015, or access the information at: *https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2015-09-18/pdf/2015-23389.pdf.*

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or the electronic and written/paper 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: Cicely Reese; Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 1, Rm. 3215, Silver Spring, MD 20993–0002, 301–796–9025, email: *CBERCTGTAC@fda.hhs.gov,* or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1–800–741–8138 (301–443–0572 in the Washington, DC area). A notice in the **Federal Register** about last-minute modifications that impact a previously announced advisory committee meeting cannot always be published quickly enough to provide timely notice. Therefore, you should always check FDA's website at *https://www.fda.gov/AdvisoryCommittees/default.htm* and scroll down to the appropriate advisory committee meeting link or call the advisory committee information line to learn about possible modifications before the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda: The meeting presentations will be heard, viewed, captioned, and recorded through an online teleconferencing and/or video conferencing platform. On July 30, 2026, the Committee will meet in open session to discuss and make recommendations on Biologics License Application (BLA) 125827, from Replimune, Inc. for vusolimogene oderparepvec. The proposed indication (use) is in combination with nivolumab for the treatment of adult patients with advanced melanoma who have previously received an anti-PD–1 containing regimen.

FDA intends to make background material available to the public no later than two (2) business days before the meeting. If FDA is unable to post the background material on its website prior to the meeting, the background material will be made publicly available on FDA's website at the time of the advisory committee meeting. Background material and the link to the online teleconference and/or video conference meeting will be available at *https://www.fda.gov/AdvisoryCommittees/Calendar/default.htm.* Scroll down to the appropriate advisory committee meeting link.

The meeting will include slide presentations with audio and video components to allow the presentation of materials in a manner that most closely resembles an in-person advisory committee meeting.

Procedure: Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the Committee. All electronic and written submissions to the Docket (see **ADDRESSES**) on or before July 20, 2026, will be provided to the Committee. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled between approximately 1:05 p.m. and 2:05 p.m. Eastern Time. Those individuals interested in making formal oral presentations should notify the contact person and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, along with the names, email addresses, and direct contact phone numbers of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation on or before 12 p.m. Eastern Time on July 15, 2026. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. If the number of registrants requesting to speak is greater than can be reasonably accommodated during the scheduled open public hearing session, FDA may conduct a lottery to determine the speakers for the scheduled open public hearing session. The contact person will notify interested persons regarding their request to speak by 6 p.m. Eastern Time on July 17, 2026.

For press inquiries, please contact the HHS Press Room at *www.hhs.gov/press-room/index.html* or 202–690–6343. FDA welcomes the attendance of the public at its advisory committee meetings and will make every effort to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require accommodations due to a disability, please contact Cicely Reese at *CBERCTGTAC@fda.hhs.gov* (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.

FDA is committed to the orderly conduct of its advisory committee meetings. Please visit our website at *https://www.fda.gov/AdvisoryCommittees/AboutAdvisoryCommittees/ucm111462.htm* for procedures on public conduct during advisory committee meetings.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*). This meeting notice also serves as notice that, pursuant to 21 CFR 10.19, the requirements in 21 CFR 14.22(b), (f), and (g) relating to the location of advisory committee meetings are hereby waived to allow for this meeting to take place using an online meeting platform. This waiver is in the interest of allowing greater transparency and opportunities for public participation, in addition to convenience for advisory committee members, speakers, and guest speakers. The conditions for issuance of a waiver under 21 CFR 10.19 are met.

Grace R. Graham,

Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2026–13810 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4164–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Proposed Collection; 60-Day Comment Request: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Customer Participation and Performance Management With NIH Programs, Products, and Services (Office of the Director)

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirement of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 to provide an opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute (NCI) will publish periodic summaries of proposed projects to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

DATES: Comments regarding this information collection are best assured of having their full effect if received by August 7, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To obtain a copy of the data collection plans and instruments, submit comments in writing, or request more information on the proposed project, contact: Diane Kreinbrink, Program Manager, Office of Management Policy and Compliance, National Cancer Institute, 9609 Medical Center Drive, Room 2W446, Bethesda, Maryland 20892 or call non-toll-free number (240) 276–7283 or email your request, including your address to: *diane.kreinbrink@nih.gov.* Formal requests for additional plans and instruments must be requested in writing.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires: written comments and/or suggestions from the public, and affected agencies are invited to address one or more of the following points: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function 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, 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 minimizes the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Proposed Collection Title: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Customer Participation and Performance Management with NIH Programs, Products, and Services (NIH), 0925–0778: Expiration Date 9/30/2026, Extension, National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Need and Use of Information Collection: Evaluating the effectiveness of leadership, programs, and services is essential for the vitality of any institution. Leadership review at NIH focuses on the productivity of the IC, management of resources and budget allocations, training activities, and influence on dimensions of diversity, inclusion, promotion of investigators and staff (including NIH Equity Committee (NEC) reports), and positive workforce culture.

Program and service reviews may focus on operational performance; outputs, outcomes, and impacts; policy compliance, stewardship, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Both types of reviews and evaluations may solicit input from IC staff and leadership (IC Director, Deputy Director, E.O.) and relevant program participants and stakeholders about the program's effectiveness, leader, or process. They may include comparisons with other ICs or programs, external benchmarks, and outcome metrics where appropriate and applicable. This input should provide meaningful information that can be used to identify strengths and areas that need improvement. Reports developed from the review or evaluation may be presented by the IC Director to the IC's Advisory Council or Board, to other IC or NIH leadership (such as the Deputy Director for Intramural Research and the NIH Director), or to program participants or the broader public. Such reports may include recommendations and proposed actions to address areas for improvement. In public or broadly shared reports, any sensitive information in the reviews or evaluations will be summarized and presented in aggregate.

This clearance will allow direct assessment and measurement of the customer/respondent base for participation in and satisfaction with NIH programs, products, and services. The clearance will also enable offices to assess participants' experience and accomplishments during or since participation and their preferences for existing and future programming, products, and services. The information collected using these tools informs and supports budgeting, program management and design, program planning, results reporting, information dissemination, and outreach initiatives.

OMB approval is requested for 3 years. There are no costs to respondents other than their time. The total estimated annualized burden hours are 3,375.

ESTIMATED ANNUALIZED BURDEN HOURS

Type of respondent	Form name	Number of respondents	Number of responses per respondent	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden hour
Individuals, Households, Private Sector, State Government, Local Government, Tribal Government, or Federal Government.	Performance Measurement	500	1	30/60	250
	Interviews	1,000	1	1	1,000
	Program Reviews	500	1	45/60	375
	Surveys	5,000	1	15/60	1,250
	Focus Groups	500	1	1	500
Totals			7,500		3,375

The Deputy Director for Extramural Research, Jon Lorsch, having reviewed and approved this document, authorizes Alycia Booth, who is the Federal Register Liaison, to electronically sign this document for purposes of publication in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: July 6, 2026.

Alycia Booth,

Federal Register Liaison, National Institutes of Health.

[FR Doc. 2026–13806 File 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4167–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government Owned Invention Available for License: Generating Conditional and Reverse Conditional Loss-of-Function Alleles in Mouse Casq2

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is seeking potential licensees interested in further developing or utilizing these Casq2 mouse strains. As a research tool, patent protection is not being pursued for this technology. More information to access these strains can be found here: *https://www.jax.org/strain/036291* and *https://www.jax.org/strain/036290.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquiries related to this license opportunity should be directed to: Heather Gunas JD, MPH, Senior Technology Transfer Manager, NCI, Technology Transfer Center, Email: *gunash@mail.nih.gov* or Phone: 240–276–5530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Cardiac calsequestrin (Casq2) plays an essential role in maintaining cardiac Ca^{2+} homeostasis. Human *CASQ2* mutations are associated with catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia (CPVT), a rare familial arrhythmogenic disorder within a group of diseases characterized as Sudden Arrhythmic Death.

The inventors have generated Casq2Flox and Casq2RevFlox mouse strains that model CPVT. The two novel strains successfully phenocopy aspects of CPVT, including stress-induced arrhythmias and reduced basal heart rates. The strains allow investigators to determine the importance of Casq2 gene function in specific tissues and at specific developmental time points. They also allow investigators to determine the efficacy of gene therapy and to address key mechanism questions. The materials are validated and fully functional.

This Notice is in accordance with 37 CFR 404.4 Authority to grant licenses.

NIH Reference Number: E–128–2024.

Related Technologies: N/A.

Product Type: Research Material/Tool.

Therapeutic Area(s): Rare/Neglected Disease.

Development Stage: Validated and fully functional.

Publications:

- Knollmann BC, et al. *Casq2* deletion causes sarcoplasmic reticulum volume increase, premature Ca^{2+} release, and catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia. (PMID 16932808)
- Flores DJ, et al. Conditional ablation and conditional rescue models for Casq2 elucidate the role of development and of cell-type specific expression of Casq2 in the CPVT2 phenotype. (PMID 29452352).
- Blackwell DJ, et al. The Purkinje–myocardial junction is the anatomic origin of ventricular arrhythmia in CPVT. (*PMID* 34990403).

Patents: N/A.

Potential Commercial Applications:

- Study of Casq2 function.
- Study of calcium storage in cardiac muscle and CPVT.
- Determining the efficacy of gene therapy for CPVT pies.

Competitive Advantages:

- Only available conditional and reverse conditional loss-of-function alleles in mouse Casq2.
- Allows the study of Casq2 gene function in specific tissues and at specific developmental points.

Collaboration Opportunity: NICHD seeks licensing for further developing or utilizing these Casq2 mouse strains.

Dated: July 6, 2026.

Richard U. Rodriguez,

Associate Director, Technology Transfer Center, National Cancer Institute.

[FR Doc. 2026–13802 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4167–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Government Owned Invention Available for License: Method of Detecting Circulating Cell-Free HPV 6 and 11 DNA in Patients Afflicted With Diseases Caused by Chronic HPV 6 or 11 Infection and Use Thereof

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (FNLCR) seek research co-development partners and/or licensees for commercial development of a novel liquid biopsy diagnostic for non-invasive detection of cell-free HPV 6 and 11 DNA for recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (RRP).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquiries related to this license opportunity should be directed to: Suna Gulay French, Ph.D., Technology Transfer Manager, NCI, Technology Transfer Center, Email: *suna.gulay@nih.gov* or Phone: 240–276–7424.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RRP, caused by chronic infection with human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6 and 11, is a rare but potentially fatal disease characterized by the growth of papillomas throughout the respiratory tract. While HPV 6/11 infections are common, affecting approximately 40% of U.S. adults, a subset of patients can develop a range of conditions from benign papillomas to dysplasia and invasive cancers. Current treatment for RRP typically involves repetitive surgical intervention or laser ablation to alleviate symptoms, which carries significant procedural risks. A recent breakthrough with a therapeutic HPV vaccine demonstrated that 51% of patients avoided surgery for at least a year, with some experiencing durable remission. However, there remains no reliable diagnostic tool to confirm viral clearance or guide systemic therapy decisions.

Researchers at the NCI and FNLCR have developed a novel hybridization-based next-generation sequencing (NGS) liquid biopsy method to detect circulating cell-free HPV 6 and 11 DNA in the plasma of patients with RRP. This innovative approach uses the established relevance of circulating viral DNA as a valuable biomarker for disease monitoring and therapeutic decision-making in other virally-associated conditions. The method is designed to target multiple regions across the entire HPV 6 and 11 genomes. It employs a pull-down DNA technology to enhance coverage—overcoming limitations of fixed-primer PCR for small cell-free DNA fragments. While low-risk HPV-associated diseases like RRP exhibit less tumor cell turnover compared to advanced cancers, the inherent high vascularity of papillomas may facilitate the release of viral DNA into peripheral blood. This method offers a non-invasive, sensitive and potentially prognostic tool to aid in (1) diagnosis, (2) monitoring progression and (3) guiding systemic therapies such as HPV vaccination or predicting severity—including pulmonary risk.

Investigators at the NCI and FNLCR continue to evaluate circulating HPV 6 and 11 DNA in patients previously treated in clinical trials to further assess its prognostic and predictive capabilities. This technology presents a compelling opportunity for commercial development and seamless integration into existing diagnostic platforms. NCI and FNLCR offer licensing and collaborative development opportunities to advance this critical diagnostic and prognostic tool for RRP.

''This Notice is in accordance with 37 CFR 404.4 Authority to grant licenses.''

NIH Reference Number: E–019–2025.

Related Technologies: N/A.

Product Type: Diagnostic.

Therapeutic Area(s): Pulmonology | Infectious Disease | Oncology.

Development Stage: Pre-clinical (*in vivo* validation).

Publications:

- Norberg SM, et al. PRGN–2012 gene therapy in adults with recurrent respiratory papillomatosis: a pivotal phase 1/2 clinical trial. (PMID 39855244).

Patents: PCT/US2026/027273, filed May 8, 2026.

Potential Commercial Applications:

- Liquid biopsy diagnostic for RRP confirmation.
- Monitoring RRP disease progression.
- Prognostic test for RRP severity, especially pulmonary disease.
- Companion diagnostic to guide systemic RRP therapies.
- HPV 6/11 detection assay for anogenital condyloma.

Competitive Advantages:

- Non-invasive, sensitive and potentially prognostic and diagnostic tool.
- Reduces the need for, and risk from, repeat surgical procedures.
- Detects disease even with a Derkay score of 0 (minimal laryngeal involvement).

Collaboration Opportunity: Researchers at the NCI seek licensing and/or co-development research collaborations for commercial development of a novel liquid biopsy diagnostic for non-invasive detection of cell-free HPV 6 and 11 DNA for RRP.

Dated: July 6, 2026.

Richard U. Rodriguez,

Associate Director, Technology Transfer Center, National Cancer Institute.

[FR Doc. 2026–13803 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4167–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

[OMB Control Number 1651–0149]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Extension; Court-Ordered Refunds Under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act Worksheet

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: 60-Day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). The information collection is published in the **Federal Register** to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and must be submitted (no later than September 8, 2026) to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice must include the OMB Control Number 1651–0149 in the subject line and the agency name. Please submit written comments and/or suggestions in English. Please use the following method to submit comments:

Email. Submit comments to: *CBP_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional PRA information should be directed to Seth Renkema, Chief, Economic Impact Analysis Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Trade, Regulations and Rulings, 90 K Street NE, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20229–1177, Telephone number 202–325–0056 or via email *CBP_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov.* Please note that the contact information provided here is solely for questions regarding this notice. Individuals seeking information about other CBP programs should contact the CBP National Customer Service Center at 877–227–5511, (TTY) 1–800–877–8339, or CBP website at *https://www.cbp.gov/.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CBP invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the proposed and/or continuing information collections pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8. Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points: (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, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) suggestions to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) suggestions 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, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses. The comments that are submitted will be summarized and included in the request for approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Overview of This Information Collection

Title: Court-Ordered Refunds under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act Worksheet.
OMB Number: 1651–0149.
Form Number: N/A.
Current Actions: Extension.
Type of Review: Extension.
Affected Public: Businesses.
Abstract:

Background

On February 20, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Learning Resources, Inc.* v. *Trump* that all tariffs imposed by the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), which U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has collected pursuant to the President's Executive Orders and associated provisions in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) since February 3, 2025, were unlawful. In so holding, the Supreme Court affirmed the August 29, 2025 judgment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) in *V.O.S. Selections, Inc.* v. *Trump,* which in turn had affirmed-in-part, vacated-in-part, and remanded-in-part the May 28, 2025 decision of the U.S. Court of International Trade (CIT) in that case. On March 2, 2026, the CAFC issued its formal mandate to the CIT.

On March 4, 2026, the CIT ordered in *Atmus Filtration, Inc.* v. *United States* ''that, with respect to any and all

unliquidated entries that were entered subject to the IEEPA duties, U.S. Customs and Border Protection is hereby directed to liquidate those entries without regard to the IEEPA duties,'' and ''[a]ny liquidated entries for which liquidation is not final shall be reliquidated without regard to IEEPA duties.'' On March 5, 2026, the CIT amended its March 4, 2026, order in *Atmus Filtration, Inc.* v. *United States* to clarify that it applies to entries made ''subject to the IEEPA duties imposed by the Executive Orders considered by the Supreme Court in *Learning Resources, Inc.* v. *Trump.*'' On March 6, 2026, the CIT suspended its March 4, 2026, order, as amended, ''to the extent that it directs immediate compliance,'' to allow CBP time to develop an automated tool capable of processing the unprecedented volume and value of refunds covered by the CIT order. On the same day, the CIT also ordered the government to provide periodic status reporting on this development. The government submitted detailed status reports to the court on March 12, 2026, and March 19, 2026.

On March 20, 2026, the CIT again amended its Amended Order of March 5, 2026, to clarify that it applies to ''any and all unliquidated entries that were entered subject to IEEPA duties'' as well as to any such ''liquidated entries for which liquidation is not final,'' provided, however, that ''nothing in this order addresses issues concerning duty free de minimis treatment under 19 U.S.C. 1321 that are otherwise before this Court'' in *Axle of Dearborn, Inc.* v. *Department of Commerce.* The CIT's March 20, 2026 order continued to suspend the Amended Order of March 5, 2026, ''to the extent that it requires immediate compliance,'' and ordered that the government file another status report on March 31, 2026, ''describing the progress Customs has made toward the completion of a process to issue refunds of IEEPA duties paid with interest,'' and join another closed settlement conference with the Court later the same day to further discuss the same. In accordance with this order, the government submitted a detailed status report and attended a closed settlement conference on March 31, 2026. On April 6, 2026, the plaintiff in *Atmus Filtration, Inc.* v. *United States* filed a notice of voluntary dismissal in its case, which the CIT granted on April 8, 2026.

On April 7, 2026, the CIT lifted the stay on *Euro-Notions Florida, Inc.* v. *United States,* CIT Ct. No. 25–00595, another pending case challenging the IEEPA duties, and issued an injunctive order substantively identical to its March 4, 2026, order, as amended, in *Atmus Filtration, Inc.* Accordingly, the *Euro-Notions Florida, Inc.* case has replaced the *Atmus Filtration, Inc.* case as the test case for the IEEPA refund process. On April 8, 2026, the CIT issued an order in *Euro-Notions Florida, Inc.* ordering the government to file another status update on April 14, 2026, regarding CBP's progress on the IEEPA duty refund process and join another closed settlement conference with the Court later the same day.

Specifically, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and CBP have initiated the development of the Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries (CAPE) tool to handle the volume of tariff refunds anticipated in the timeframe required by the CIT. While the CIT has not set a timeframe to date, the Court has signaled that refunds be issued as quickly as possible because of the accrual of interest. Further, while the order to refund IEEPA duties with interest is currently suspended ''to the extent that it requires immediate compliance,'' the CIT is closely monitoring CBP's progress to timely complete the development of CAPE and can lift the suspension of its order at any time.

The tariffs assessed under IEEPA from February 3, 2025 to February 24, 2026 total an estimated $166 billion, with over 53 million entry summaries requiring processing in order to issue accurate refunds with required interest. Prior to CAPE, refunds were reviewed and processed entry summary-by-entry summary. Given the volume and values of the entries affected by the CIT order, CBP is unable to process the refunds owed in a timely or efficient manner using the existing process.

The CAPE tool may be accessed through CBP's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), which is the CBP-operated system used to report, manage, process, and track U.S. imports and exports.

The CAPE tool allows CBP to process multiple entry summaries by the same importer on a single submission, which will lead to a single refund for a given importer rather than multiple refund transactions. Importers are able to file as many CAPE Declarations as they need. Thus, potentially thousands of refund transactions can be consolidated into a single payment that is directly deposited into an IOR's account (or the account of their designated party) on file. The request for a refund that is filed through CAPE is called a ''CAPE Declaration''.

The new CAPE tool allows—

- Automated processes to be leveraged to the fullest extent possible to segment risk and execute millions of mathematical calculations with precision.
- CBP personnel to focus on those refund CAPE Declarations that are considered ''high risk'' due to the dollar values involved or the risk profile of the IOR.
- CBP personnel to determine with confidence which lines on an entry summary are eligible for an IEEPA refund while ensuring the remaining duties (including duties owed for antidumping/countervailing duty (AD/CVD) remedies and Section 232 tariffs), tax, and fees that are owed the U.S. government are retained and collected as usual.
- CBP personnel to ensure that the precise duty owed to the IOR is refunded directly to the IOR's account—no overpayments or payments to an erroneous party.

IORs will submit the information related to their refund request to CBP through the ACE Portal. Alternatively, IORs may have their information submitted to CBP using a licensed customs broker. Brokers are licensed through CBP to conduct customs business on behalf of their IOR clients. In order to receive a refund through the CAPE process, the IOR, or their designated broker, must have an active and up-to-date ACE Portal account and supporting profile. If a broker is filing a CAPE Declaration on an IOR's behalf, they must be the ''notify party'' designated in the appropriate ACE account. Only ACE account holders will be able to file a CAPE Declaration through the CAPE tool.

Most small businesses do not have an ACE account and instead enlist the assistance of a licensed customs broker to conduct business on their behalf. They will continue to be able, and are expected, to use their customs brokers for the IEEPA refunds process and CAPE. Based on public comments received, CBP may develop an alternative process for small businesses if it is determined that using ACE and CAPE is overly burdensome for those businesses.

It is also important to note that the Federal Government no longer disburses paper checks, but issues refunds electronically via Automated Clearinghouse (ACH). The transition to electronic refunds is in line with Executive Order 12247 and was implemented by CBP via the Interim Final Rule (IFR) *Electronic Refunds* (91 FR 21) in January 2026. CBP is currently holding refunds for filers who do not have an ACH account on file in ACE. CBP will continue to do the same for IEEPA Refunds. As noted in the IFR: ''If

an importer believes that one of the waiver criteria in 31 CFR part 208 applies and seeks payment of its refund via a U.S. Treasury check, the importer must notify CBP's Revenue Division in writing at *frn-achrefundsupport@cbp.dhs.gov.*'' CBP does not believe it is necessary at this time to create a procedure outside the one established in the IFR.

The term ''Declaration filer'' will be used going forward to cover both IORs who file their own IEEPA refund requests or their designated licensed customs broker.

Previously Approved Emergency Changes

The following modified information collection listed below was submitted to OMB for consideration of approval on an emergency clearance, with the justification of an unanticipated event and reasons to believe following the normal PRA process is likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information and cause public harm. CBP welcomes public to comment on these approved changes.

To submit an IEEPA refund CAPEdeclaration, an IOR, or their broker, will submit a Comma-Separated Values (CSV) file with a list of entry summary numbers to the CAPE tool through the ACE Portal. Depending on the CAPE Declaration, this file may contain only a few lines of data or thousands of lines of data (there is a limit of 9,999 entries per CAPE Declaration). If the file submitted is rejected based on the screening and validation CBP will conduct prior to accepting a CAPE Declaration, the Declaration filer will need to adjust their CSV file and resubmit. CBP will issue technical guidance to filers to minimize the number of rejections/resubmissions.

Although the CIT suspended its order ''to the extent that it directs immediate compliance,'' the order indicates that this suspension was based on the CBP declaration filed in that case on March 6, 2026, which declared that CBP anticipates that CAPE would be ready April 20, 2026, and any delay would pose risks for CBP in following CIT orders and for returning those duties deemed refundable with the end of IEEPA.

Type of Information Collection: CVS File.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 330,000.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.5.

Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 495,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 495,000.

Type of Information Collection: CVS File Replacement.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 33,000.

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.

Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 33,000.

Estimated Time per Response: 0.5 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 16,500.

Seth D. Renkema,

Branch Chief, Economic Impact Analysis Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

[FR Doc. 2026–13771 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–14–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–7093–N–06; OMB Control No.: 2535–NEW]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Recipient Financial Reporting for Grant Programs

AGENCY: Office of the Chief Financial Officer, 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 September 8, 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: Min Guo, Management and Program Analyst, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Min Guo, Management and Program Analyst, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410; email: Min Guo at *min.guo@hud.gov,* telephone number (202) 402–7851 (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 Min Guo, *min.guo@hud.gov.*

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: Recipient Financial Reporting for Grant Programs.

OMB Approval Number: 2535-Pending.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Form Number: N/A.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The information collection burden associated with enhanced financial reporting for grant programs aligns with cross-government priorities to strengthen stewardship of Federal funds and to better identify and address potential fraud, waste, and abuse in a timely manner. The information collection burden is also supported by Part 200 of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which requires federal grant recipients to maintain financial records supported by source documentation (2 CFR 200.302) and retain those records for 3 years (2 CFR 200.334). HUD is currently in the process of adding special conditions to grant awards to require recipients to submit evidence to support financial expenditures. Under grants with the special conditions applied, recipients will need to provide financial records that substantiate payments made with federal funding, including payments made by subrecipients and other contracted services. HUD is establishing an online portal to collect the records from recipients. Such records will include itemized invoices showing vendor or subrecipient names, descriptions of goods or services provided, the service period, and amount billed; proof of payments such as canceled checks, payment confirmations, or accounting system payment registers; and subaward agreements or contracts signed with vendors or consultants. Over time, HUD

anticipates this collection to replace existing collections used to satisfy financial monitoring requirements.

Respondents: All HUD grant recipients managing grants with special conditions for enhanced financial reporting requirements, which will typically apply to grants awarded in 2025 and forward.

Respondents (i.e., affected public): All HUD Grantees.

Information collection	Number of respondents [1]	Frequency of response	Response per annum [2]	Burden hour per response [2]	Annual burden hours	Hourly cost per response [3]	Annual cost
Total	30,000	4	120,000	1.5	180,000	$49.08	$8,834,400

[1] Number of respondents are based on the estimated number of unique entities that receive grants from HUD.
[2] Responses per annum and burden hour per response estimates are based on a demonstration program HUD completed in partnership with nine grant recipients.
[3] Hourly cost estimates are based on Bureau of Labor Statistics' most recently published (as of this writing) May 2025 hourly median wage of Financial Analysts and Advisors (Standard Occupational Classification code 13–2050) ($49.08), consistent with the nature of financial reporting required under the information collection.

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.

Irving Dennis,

Principal Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–13735 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–6549–N–03]

Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting; Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC)

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda for a virtual meeting of the Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC) to be held on July 23, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The meeting is open to the public. The agenda provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the business before the MHCC.

DATES: The MHCC meeting will be held on July 23, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via teleconference.

The teleconference number for the meeting is:

Phone: (301) 715–8592 or (689) 278–1000.

Meeting ID: 882 3542 5111.

To access the webinar, use the following link: *https://us06web.zoom.us/launch/jc/88235425111*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Jo Houton, Administrator, Office of Manufactured Housing Programs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 9166, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708–6423 (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 from 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.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Notice of these meetings is provided in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and implementing regulations. 5 U.S.C. 1009(a)(2), 41 CFR 102–3.150. The Manufactured Housing Consensus Committee (MHCC) was established by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974. Public Law 93–383, 88 Stat. 633, codified at 42 U.S.C. 5401 *et seq.* This Act was later amended by the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–569, 114 Stat. 2944). Under 42 U.S.C. 5403, the purposes of the MHCC are to:

(1) Provide periodic recommendations to the Secretary to adopt, revise, and interpret the Federal manufactured housing construction and safety standards in accordance with subsection 5403(a);

(2) Provide periodic recommendations to the Secretary to adopt, revise, and interpret the procedural and enforcement regulations, including regulations specifying the permissible scope and conduct of monitoring, in accordance with subsection 5403(b); and

(3) Be organized and carry out its business in a manner that guarantees a fair opportunity for the expression and consideration of various positions and for public participation. The MHCC is deemed an advisory committee not composed of Federal employees.

Public Comment

Interested parties wishing to make comments on the business of the MHCC are encouraged to register by or before Monday, July 13, 2026, by contacting HUD's Administering Organization for the MHCC (AO), Home Innovation Research Labs; Attention: Kevin Kauffman, 400 Prince Georges Blvd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774, or email to *mhcc@homeinnovation.com* or call 1–888–602–4663. Written comments should be submitted on or before Monday, July 13, 2026, to give MHCC members an opportunity to review the comments and come prepared to the meeting. Timely submission of comments will allow adequate opportunity to consider stakeholder input and help facilitate meaningful discussions. The MHCC strives to accommodate citizen comments to the extent possible within the time constraints of the meeting agenda.

Advance registration is strongly encouraged. The MHCC will provide an opportunity for public comments on specific matters before the MHCC.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Manufactured Housing Programs, is providing an opportunity for the MHCC to discuss proposed updates to the Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards regarding energy conservation. The input will help HUD further refine certain aspects of the energy conservation standards for manufactured housing, as well as the supporting technical analysis, including anticipated costs and benefits. HUD is scheduling this meeting with the MHCC to allow robust discussion, analysis, and consideration as the committee is responsible for providing recommendations to the Secretary for the purposes of proceeding with changes to the standards. This meeting is scheduled for one day to provide sufficient time for thorough consideration and collection of MHCC recommendations. HUD, therefore, strongly encourages active participation by committee members, stakeholders, and other interested parties.

Tentative Agenda for July 23, 2026

(1) Call to Order—MHCC Chair & *Mary Jo Houton,* Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

(2) Roll Call—AO

(3) Opening Remarks—MHCC Chair & DFO

(4) Introductions;

(a) MHCC Members;

(b) HUD Staff; and

(c) Guests.

(5) Administrative Announcements—DFO & AO

(6) Public Comment Period—15 minutes

(7) Review the Energy Conservation Standards for Manufactured Housing

(8) Public Comment Period—15 minutes

(9) Wrap Up—DFO & AO

(10) Adjourn

Joseph M. Gormley,

President of the Government National Mortgage Association performing the delegable duties of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 2026–13760 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210–67–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7290; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043147; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: 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, 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to Cristin Lucas, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, 1013 E University Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85721–0026, 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 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, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In 2018, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains from the Snohomish County, Washington, Medical Examiner. The remains, designated AZ 04SN2365, were recovered from a thrift store in a box that contained a Tucson address and a newspaper. Based on these associated materials, the individual is believed to have originated from southern Arizona.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In 1976, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains from a private citizen. The remains, designated AZ 76–83, were reportedly recovered from a mineshaft in the Empire Mountains southeast of Tucson, Arizona.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains from the Tucson Police Department. The remains, designated AZ 831158002TPD, are believed to have originated from the Tucson area based on the limited available acquisition history.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On January 20, 1988, a private citizen discovered ancestral remains near Red Rock, Arizona. The remains were reported to law enforcement and subsequently transferred to a deputy with the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, who delivered them to the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCME) for evaluation. The PCME declined jurisdiction and, on March 8, 1988, transferred the remains to the Arizona State Museum, where they were designated AZ AA ML–88–0266.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, a private citizen removed ancestral remains from the Silverbell Mountains in Pima County, Arizona. The individual donated the remains to the Arizona State Museum on April 5, 1941, where they were later assigned the designation AZ AA:— 304.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. Between 1980 and 1985, ancestral remains were recovered during the Northern Tucson Basin Survey project, east of State Route 87 and north of Houser Road in Pinal County, Arizona. Upon completion of the project, circa 1985, the survey collections were transferred to the Arizona State Museum. The remains were later identified during a 2010 collections review and subsequently assigned the designation AZ AA:3:—.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, 12 individuals have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary

objects are present. On March 6, 2006, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains (AZ AT–2006–14) following their removal from a private roadside exhibit in Benson, Arizona. The remains exhibit variable states of preservation, suggesting they were recovered from multiple locations, presumably in southern Arizona.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The two associated funerary objects are an animal bone awl and an animal bone tool. In February 2002, ancestral remains were identified in an arroyo wall near Dudleyville, Arizona, and reported to the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office recovered the remains and transferred them to the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) for assessment. In February 2008, PCOME transferred the remains to the Arizona State Museum for repatriation, where they were assigned the designation AZ BB:1:— Dudleyville.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In 1929, a private citizen recovered ancestral remains from a rock ledge near Winkelman, Arizona. The Arizona State Museum received the remains from the individual in 1992 for repatriation, where they were assigned the designation AZ BB:1:— Winkelman.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In March 1962, a deputy with the Pinal County Sheriff's Office recovered ancestral remains along the San Pedro River near Redington, Arizona. The remains were subsequently transferred to the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona and later to the Arizona State Museum, where they were assigned the designation AZ BB:11:— San Pedro.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In 1965, ancestral remains were identified on private property in southeast Tucson, Arizona during the construction of a retaining wall. The landowner retained custody of the remains until June 10, 2018, when they were received by the Arizona State Museum for repatriation and assigned the designation AZ BB:13:— Hutchinson.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On December 26, 1994, the Pinal County Sheriff's Office recovered ancestral remains exposed in an eroded bank of the San Pedro River near Mammoth, Arizona. The remains were transferred to the Arizona State Museum on December 28, 1994, for repatriation and assigned the designation AZ BB:6:— DR–941200528.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, the Graham County Sheriff's Department recovered ancestral remains near Fort Grant State Prison. The Arizona State Museum received the remains on August 25, 1986, where they were assigned the designation AZ CC:5:— FA–86–011.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, ancestral remains were identified within the Arizona State Museum collections. The remains, assigned the designation AZ D–70, were housed in a plastic evidence bag marked ''Pinal County Sheriff's Office,'' but no additional provenience information was available. Based on the presumed acquisition history, the remains are believed to have originated from southern Arizona.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. Between 1965 and 1990, a private citizen recovered ancestral remains along the Santa Cruz River south of Amado, Arizona. The Arizona State Museum later received the remains from the landowner and assigned the designation AZ DD:8:— Amado vicinity.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In the early 1980s, ancestral remains were removed from private land near the Santa Cruz Wash, east of what was then Tumacácori National Monument. The remains were retained in private possession until 2008, when they were transferred to the Arizona State Museum by the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner, following involvement by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. The remains were assigned the designation AZ DD:8:— ML–2004–2077 by the Arizona State Museum.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, 12 individuals have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On April 9, 2018, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains following their removal from an estate sale in southern Arizona. Limited accompanying information suggests the remains may have originated from AZ DD:8:12(ASM). The remains were subsequently assigned the designation AZ AT–2018–8 by the Arizona State Museum.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, ancestral remains were recovered from the vicinity of Florence, Arizona by the Pinal County Sheriff's Office. On May 5, 1977, the Sheriff's Office transferred the remains to the Arizona State Museum where they were assigned the designation AZ DR–77–625 in absence of an accession.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On May 18, 1996, the Arizona State Museum received human remains from the Cochise County Archaeological and Historical Society (CCAHS). The remains are believed to have been removed from site AZ EE:12:1(ASM) by a private citizen. The date of removal, as well as the circumstances and date of the transfer to CCAHS, are unknown.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, a private citizen removed ancestral remains from the vicinity of Douglas, Arizona. The remains were received by the Arizona State Museum prior to August 1953 and assigned the designation AZ FF:10:— Douglas vicinity in absence of an accession.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, a private citizen removed ancestral remains near Turkey Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona. Prior to June 1976, the remains were transferred to the Arizona State Museum by the private citizen, where they were assigned the designation AZ FF:2:— Turkey Creek Ranch in absence of an accession.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least,

one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. Prior to April 17, 1924, a private citizen removed ancestral remains from Turkey Creek Canyon on the eastern slope of the Chiricahua Mountains near Paradise, Arizona. The Arizona State Museum subsequently received the remains and assigned the designation AZ FF:4:— Paradise in absence of an accession.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. Prior to 1930, a former director of the Arizona State Museum recovered ancestral remains near a pit house in the Sulphur Springs Valley between Bisbee and Gleeson, Arizona. The remains were subsequently transferred to the Arizona State Museum. In 1968 or 1969, the Physical Anthropology Laboratory loaned the remains to a student, who retained them until May 2011, when they were returned to the Arizona State Museum for repatriation. Upon their return, they were assigned the designation AZ FF:5:— Sulphur Springs in absence of an accession.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, ancestral remains were recovered by the Pima County Sheriff's Office from an unidentified location described as a ''desert area southwest of Tucson.'' The remains were subsequently transferred to the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) for assessment. On May 21, 2001, PCOME transferred the remains to the Arizona State Museum for repatriation, where they were assigned the designation AZ ML–00–0524.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On September 23, 1988, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains from the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, likely for forensic assessment. Provenience and accession information were not recorded at the time of transfer; however, based on the acquisition history, the remains likely originated in Pinal County, Arizona. The remains were later assigned the designation AZ ML–88–1000 by the Arizona State Museum in absence of an accession.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, 27 individuals have been reasonably identified. The 16 associated funerary objects include a shell bead, shell fragments, ceramic sherds, a polished stone, a carved stone fragment, and a lithic flake. On unknown dates in 1935, ancestral remains were removed from the Allentown site in Pima County, Arizona, and the Manuelito site in McKinley County, New Mexico. On October 2, 1988, the Tucson Police Department recovered the remains from a private residence in Tucson, Arizona, and transferred them to the Arizona State Museum, where they were assigned the designation AZ ML–88–1028. Due to the manner in which the remains were housed, it is not possible to determine the original location from which each set was removed.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. Prior to December 1955, ancestral remains were removed from private land near the Santa Cruz River in Pima County, Arizona. The Arizona State Museum subsequently received the remains from the landowner where they were designated AZ BB:-Santa Cruz River Ranch in absence of an accession.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The one associated funerary object is a projectile point. In 1930, ancestral remains were recovered from University Farm on the Casa Grande Highway near Tucson, Arizona. The Arizona State Museum received the remains later that year where they were designated AZ AA:-University Farm in absence of an accession.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, two individuals have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In 1932 and 1933, a private citizen removed ancestral remains from undocumented locations in southern Arizona. The remains, later designated AZ unprovenienced Gipe, were transferred to the Arizona State Museum in 1965 by the citizen's spouse.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, two individuals have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGF) identified ancestral remains in an AZGF evidence locker. In 2018, the Arizona State Museum received the remains from the Department for repatriation, where they were assigned the designation AZ unprovenienced GF. Based on the location of the locker and AZGF office, the remains are believed to have originated in southern Arizona.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On July 20, 1900, ancestral remains were removed from the vicinity of Yuma, Arizona. The Arizona State Museum received the remains on an unknown date prior to August 1953, when they were identified during an inventory. In the absence of accession information, the remains were later assigned the designation AZ X:— Yuma vicinity.

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 Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of 81 individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The 19 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 reasonable connection between the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Ak-Chin Indian Community; Gila River Indian Community of the Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona; Hopi Tribe of Arizona; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River Reservation, Arizona; and the Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona.

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 a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Arizona State 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 Arizona State Museum 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13749 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7296; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043153; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Denver Art Museum 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the associated funerary objects in this notice to Jennie Trujillo, Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80203, email *jtrujillo@denverartmuseum.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 Denver Art 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

The five associated funerary objects are pottery sherds. In 1905, five ceramic sherds (1934.124–1934.128) were removed from the Garoga Site in Jefferson Co., NY. These objects were recovered by M.R. Harrington and Irwin Hayden during Harvard Peabody Museum excavations along Caroga Creek near the town of Ephratah and were later exchanged with the Denver Art Museum in 1934. Little museum documentation has been identified, however, human remains and associated funerary objects, including ceramic sherds were recovered during excavations of the site and were reported in a Notice of Inventory Completion published in the **Federal Register** by the Harvard Peabody Museum on October 5, 2001 (66 FR 51060). The site is affiliated with the Cayuga Nation, Oneida Indian Nation, Oneida Nation, Onondaga Nation, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Seneca Nation of Indians; Seneca-Cayuga Nation; Tonawanda Band of Seneca; and the Tuscarora Nation. No known hazardous materials were used to treat any of the objects.

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 Denver Art Museum has determined that:

- The five 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 associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Cayuga Nation; Oneida Indian Nation; Oneida Nation; Onondaga Nation; Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe; Seneca Nation of Indians; Seneca-Cayuga Nation; Tonawanda Band of Seneca; and the Tuscarora Nation.

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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Denver Art Museum 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 Denver Art 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13755 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7297; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043155; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, Washington, DC, and 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 U.S Department of Defense, Department of the Navy (Navy) and 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 August 7, 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* and John O'Connor, Ph.D., RPA, Channel Islands Archaeologist, NAVFAC SW, 750 Pacific Highway, ATTN: EV22/Floor #12, San Diego, CA 92132, email *john.t.oconnor88.civ@us.navy.mil* and Richard G. Bark, Region Archaeologist, NAVFAC SW, 750 Pacific Highway, ATTN: EV22/Floor #12, San Diego, CA 92132, email *richard.g.bark.civ@us.navy.mil.*

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 Navy and the Southwest Museum Collection 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

It was agreed upon by The Department of Navy that cultural materials collected before 1906 could potentially represent the same sites as those collected after 1906. Therefore, the collections are treated jointly as the cultural material will be returned to the islands together.

Pre-1906 San Clemente Island Collection

A total of 50 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 50 lots of unassociated funerary objects are one shell bead, three beads, three lots of bone beads, one bone needle, one bone pendant, one doughnut stone, one dress ornament, one drill, two stone effigies, one fishhook, one fishhook barb, three hair pins, one harpoon point, one lid made from faunal bone, two lots of manufacturing tools, one modified faunal bone, three necklaces, one net weight, one pelican stone, two stone pendants, two perforators made of faunal bone, one shuttle-shaped hook, eight stone beads, four stone pendants, one steatite whale effigy, two whale tooth ornaments, and one whistle. Sometime between 1877 to 1895 Dr. Frank M. Palmer (2.P) collected cultural items from unknown areas on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. The Southwest Society, precursor of Southwest Museum, purchased Dr. Frank M. Palmer's collection in 1896 and were the first items put on display for the Museum. The Southwest Museum is now part of the Autry Museum of the American West.

A total of one lot of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The one lot of unassociated funerary objects are faunal bones. On an unknown date, an unknown collector collected cultural material from possibly San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. The cultural material (18.C.177) were found in a box with other San Clemente Island material with no object number. It is unknown when or how the items entered the Southwest Museum.

A total of one lot of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The one lot of unassociated funerary objects are mixed beads (shell and trade beads). Circa 1900s, Mr. Edmond Leonard Doran collected cultural material (201.L.150) from an unknown site on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. In 1930, Mr. Doran's daughter, Mrs. Margaret Doran Nix, donated her father's collection to the Southwest Museum.

A total of three cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The three unassociated funerary objects are one basket, one sea grass apron, and one kelp fishline. On an unknown date Mr. S.B. Clem collected cultural material from a cave in Mosquito Harbor on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, CA. Mr. Clem donated the cultural material (64.G Collection) to the Southwest Museum in 1908.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is an asphaltum applicator. Sometime between 1889 and 1907, either Mr. Arthur B. Chappelle or Mr. William Henery Burnham collected the object (615.G.30) from an unknown site on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Burnham donated their combined collection to the Southwest Museum in 1907.

Post-1906 San Clemente Island Collection

A total of three cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The three unassociated funerary objects are two doughnut stones and one paint mortar. Sometime between 1920 to 1922, Mr. Frederick S. Hughes collected the cultural material from unknown sites on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Huges was in the U.S. Navy and collected the items while station on the island. Mr. Huges (216 G Collection) donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1922.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is a hammerstone. Sometime between 1927 to 1928, the Citizens Committee of Parks, Playgrounds, and Beaches collected the cultural material (450.G.5) from an unknown site on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. The Citizen's Committee was established in 1927 and ended in 1930. Mr. Hugh Reynolds Pomeroy, representative for the Citizens Committee of Parks, Playgrounds, and Beaches, donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1928.

A total of two cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are one pestle and one modified shell. In 1930, Mr. John A. Sherman collected the cultural materials from unknown sites on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Sherman (799.G Collection) donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1938.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is a sandstone doughnut stone (1629.G.16). Sometime between 1922 to 1960, Mr. Fritz Hertzog collected the cultural material from an unknown site on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Hertzog donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1960.

A total of two cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are one sandstone mortar (1752.G.1) and one sandstone pestle (1752.G.2). In 1937, Lt-Com. Everette G. Lewis, chief aerographer for the U.S. Navy, collected the cultural material from an unknown site on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mrs. Everette G. Lewis donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1963.

A total of 11 cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 11 unassociated funerary objects are two comal fragments, one cooking stone rim fragment, one fishhook fragment, one fishhook gorge fragment, one gorget, two pestles, one scraper, one shell ornament blank, and one stone pendant. In March 1943, while stationed on the ship *U.S.S. Pensacola* that was docked on San Clemente Island, Robert O. Harris collected the cultural material from

unknown sites. Mrs. and Mr. Norton Allen (1998.14 Collection) donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1998. The connection between Harris and Norton Allen is unknown.

A total of two cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are one fossilized shell (31.F.4) and one stone bowl (31.F.5). The cultural material was found in the museum on George Kritman's worktable without object numbers. Their bags were labeled ''Gordo Site, San Clemente Island''. It is possible that ''Gordo Site'' could refer to Gordon Redfeldt. Gordon was lead archaeologist for the Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California (ASA) and together with the Southwest Museum conducted expeditions on San Clemente Island between 1962 and 1965, which is the possible date it was collected. It is unknown when the cultural material entered the Southwest Museum.

A total of two lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The two lots of unassociated funerary objects are one small steatite fish effigy and one lot of modified steatite ring fragments. The fish effigy (31.F.1) was collected in 1962 and the one lot of modified steatite ring fragments (31.F.3) between June 14 to 17, 1963, during a joint Southwest Museum and Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California (ASA) expedition on San Clemente Island lead by Mr. Bruce Bryan and Mr. Gordon Redfeldt to Ledge Site (CA–SCLI–126). The cultural material entered the Southwest Museum around the same time as the objects were collected but were not accessioned until 2018.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is a metal catholic medal (31.F.2). In 1961, Mr. Kenneth E. Seaman collected the cultural material from Ledge Site (CA–SCLI–126) on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Seaman was a range engineer on the China Lake Naval Air Warfare Station, he went to the island in 1961 with NOTS. It is unknown when the cultural material entered the Southwest Museum.

A total of four lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The four lots of unassociated funerary objects are one Channel Island Barbed Point, one bowl fragment, one lot of trade beads, and one lot of shell beads. Between 1960 to 1961, Mr. Gerald Nelson collected cultural material from what he called ''Nelson #2'' within the ''Hilltop Site''. Through research it was found he was referring to what is now called Ledge Site (CA–SCLI–126) on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Nelson (1668.G Collection) donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1961.

A total of 23 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 23 lots of sacred objects are one lot of asphaltum coated shell beads, one lot of burned basket fragments, one burned faunal bone, five lots of burned shell beads, one comal, two doughnut stones fragments, one net weight, one pestle fragment, one pipe fragment, one point fragment, four lots of shell beads, one lot of shell pendants, one stone bead, one stone bowl, and one stone disk. Between 1960 to 1961, Mr. Gerald Nelson collected cultural material from what he called ''Nelson #3'' within the ''Hilltop Site''. Through research it was found he was referring to what is now called Ledge Site (CA–SCLI–126) on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. ''Nelson #3'' site is part of a mourning/ceremonial site. Mr. Nelson (1668.G Collection) donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1961.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is a large animal stone effigy (2330.G.1). Circa 1968, Mr. Michael K. Hammer collected the cultural material from the surface near a cave at Seal Cove (CA–SCLI–67) on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mrs. Carol V. Hammer donated her husband's collection to the Southwest Museum in 1983.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is a wedge with traces of asphaltum (948.G.60). Sometime between 1920 to 1944, Mr. Franklin R. Johnston collected the cultural material from his campsite on an unknown site on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, CA. Mr. Johnston donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1944.

A total of 15 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 15 lots of unassociated funerary objects are one abalone shell, one lot of animal fur, one lot of shark teeth, four lots of shell beads, seven abalone shell bowl offerings, and one stone pendant. In 1936, Mr. H.L. Pogue collected cultural material from human and animal burials at Big Dog Cave Site (CA–SCLI–119) on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Pogue collected the cultural material when *U.S.S. Pioneer* was docked on San Clemente Island, he worked on the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey team. Mr. Pogue (733.G Collection) donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1937.

A total of 33 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 33 lots of sacred objects are one lot of asphaltum applicators, one basketry fragment, one boat effigy, one lot of boat effigy fragments, one burned basket fragment, one burned soaproot brush, two lots of comals, one cordage, one lot of dog hair, one doughnut stone fragment, one lot of animal fur, two hair ornaments, one manta fragment, one mortar fragment, two pestles, three plaques, nine lots of textile fragments, and three lots of water basket fragments. In 1936, Mr. H.L. Pogue collected cultural material from Big Dog Cave Site (CA–SCLI–119) on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Big Dog Cave (CA–SCLI–119) is a sacred/ceremonial/habitation site. Mr. Pogue collected the cultural material when *U.S.S. Pioneer* was docked on San Clemente Island during period of 1933 to 1934, he worked on the team of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Mr. Pogue (733.G Collection) donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1937.

A total of 10 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 10 lots of sacred objects are three comal fragments, one lot of dog hair, one fishhook, one lot of fur possibly otter, one net weight, and three lots of Spanish textile fragments. Sometime between 1933 to 1934, Mr. C. Rife collected cultural material from Big Dog Cave (CA–SCLI–119) on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Big Dog Cave (CA–SCLI–119) is a sacred/ceremonial/habitation site. Mr. Rife collected the cultural material when *U.S.S. Pioneer* was docked on San Clemente Island during period of 1933 to 1934, he worked on the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey team. Mr. Rife donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1936.

Pre-1906 San Nicolas Island Collection: Non-US Navy Material

A total of two cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are one steatite pelican stone (1.A.18) and one steatite plaque fragment (1.A.19). Sometime before the 1900s, Dr. Lorenzo G. Yates collected the cultural material from unknown sites on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Dr. Yates donated the cultural material to the Southwest Society, a precursor to the Southwest Museum in circa 1900.

A total of five cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The five unassociated funerary objects are two red abalone shells, one bag of matrix, one lot of modified steatite fragments, and one lot of shell and asphaltum fragments. Sometime before 1936, the museum conducted an expedition to San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Per museum records, the cultural material (10.C.1A–E) was collected in the museums' early expedition days (either Southwest Society or after it became the Southwest Museum) to the island and were found together and sealed. Sometime in 1936, the shells enclosed with asphaltum were unsealed.

A total of 11 cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 11 unassociated funerary objects are one gorget, one stone ring, three beads, one blade, one doughnut stone, one doughnut stone preform, one mortar, and two net weights. Sometime between 1877 to 1895, Dr. Frank M. Palmer (2.P Collection), first curator for the Southwest Society, a precursor to the Southwest Museum, collected cultural items from unknown sites on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Museum records state one gorget, one stone ring, three beads, one blade, one doughnut stone, and one doughnut stone preform came from unknown burials. While one mortar and two net weights were collected from the surface.

A total of two lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The two lots of unassociated funerary objects are one sandstone pestle (18.C.144) and one lot of San Nicolas Island fox bones (18.C.400). The cultural material was found in the museum without an object number, with ''San Nicolas Island'' written on the bags. Museum records do not have when the items entered the Southwest Museum or by whom. However, evidence suggests that one of the many museum curators, Bruce Bryan, Charles Rozaire or George Kritzman, brought them into the museum.

A total of 27 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 27 lots of unassociated funerary objects are one awl, one lot of blades, one charm, one chisel, one drill, two lots of faunal teeth, two lots of fishhook blanks, one fishhook gorge, one flaker, one harpoon, one knife, one modified shell tool, one modified stone fragment, one lot of net weights, one lot of pins, one pry, one lot of reamers, one lot of shell beads, two lots of shell ornaments, one side notched point, one stone disk, one stone pendant, one lot of unmodified abalone shells, and one lot of unmodified tower shells. Sometime between 1871 to 1919, Mr. John L. Von Blon collected cultural material from unknown sites on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Von Blon (45.L Collection) loaned the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1920.

A total of six lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The six lots of unassociated funerary objects are three lots of abalone shell with asphaltum plugs, two lots of stone beads, and one fishhook blank. Sometime circa the 1900s, Mr. Edmond Leonard Doran (201.L Collection) collected cultural material from unknown sites on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. His daughter Mrs. Margaret Doran Nix, donated her father's collection to the Southwest Museum in 1930.

A total of 130 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 130 lots of unassociated funerary objects are one cup, one doughnut stone, one ladle, one nut anvil, one pry, one shell, one lot of shell ornaments, one awl fragment, one biface tool, one bone bead, one bone pendant fragment, two lots of bone tubes, one bowl fragment, one burned bone bead, one chisel, two disks, 10 doughnut stones, four doughnut stone preforms, four lots of drills, one effigy, 10 fishhook blanks, one fishhook blank debitage, four fishhook fragments, one fishhook preform, one gorget, one hammerstone, two harpoon point fragments, one incised stone fragment, one incised stone object, one ladle, one ladle fragment, one leaf point, one lid, one lot of modified bone implements, two modified stone fragments, five mortars, one net weight, one nut anvil, one paint cup, one pelican stone fragment, one pot lid, three pry's, five reamers, three shell beads, one shell bead debitage, two lots of shell bead preforms, 25 lots of shell ornaments, two lots of shell bead debitage, one lot of shell ornament preforms, seven lots of shell pendants, two stone beads, one stone object, one whistle, and one lot of stone pendant with stone beads. Sometime between the late 1870s to 1911, Mr. James Wesley Calkins (311.G and 5.C Collections) collected cultural material from unknown sites on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mrs. Lily Belle Calkins Parsons donated her father's collection to the Southwest Museum in 1923.

A total of six lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The six lots of unassociated funerary objects are four lots of inlaid stone tubes, one inlaid stone pipe, and one necklace. On unknown date(s), unknown collector(s) collected cultural material from unknown sites on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Island, CA. The items were purchased by the Southwest Museum in 1959 at the *Old Curiosity Shop* located in Los Angeles, CA using the General Charles McC. Reeve Collection Fund (491.P Collection).

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is one sandstone mortar. Sometime between 1889 to 1907, either Mr. Arthur B. Chappelle or Mr. William H. Burnham (615.G Collection) collected the cultural material from an unknown site on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Burham purchased Mr. Chappelle's collection and donated their combined collection to the Southwest Museum in 1907. Museum records do not show which cultural material was collected by whom.

A total of eight lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The eight lots of unassociated funerary objects are one contracting stem point fragment, one lot of drills, one net weight, one point, and four Vandenberg Contracting Stem Points. Sometime before 1906, Mr. Frederick Hastings Rindge (980.G Collection) collected cultural material from unknown sites on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mrs. Rhonda Rindge Adamson donated her father's collection to the Southwest Museum in 1943.

A total of two cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are one sandstone mortar (1691.G.5) and one sandstone pestle (1691.G.6). Sometime between 1879 to 1961, Mr. Lanier Bartlett collected the cultural materials from an unknown site on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mrs. Jannie Belle Bartlett donated her husband's collection in his memory to the Southwest Museum in 1962.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is a fishhook (1677.G.15). Circa 1885, Mrs. Hope Gans Lockley collected the cultural material from the surface of an unknown site on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Phyllis Lockley, donated her husband's collection to the Southwest Museum in 1961 in his memory.

A total of two cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are one fishhook (4042.G.35) and one fishhook

gorge (4050.G.14). On an unknown date, an unknown collector collected the cultural material from unknown site(s) on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Hubert H. Weiser donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1986. Mr. Weiser had purchased the items from Mr. Anthony J. Krechel antiques store in Montrose, CA in 1962.

Post-1906 San Nicolas Island Collection: US Navy Material

A total of 824 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 824 lots of unassociated funerary objects are one abalone shell bowl with offering, one abalone shell fragment with asphaltum, two abalone shells with asphaltum, seven anvils, four asphaltum applicators, 10 lots of asphaltum basketry impressions, one lot of asphaltum fragments, one atlatl spur, 10 awls, one dual use awl/bone pendant, 18 bifaces, eight lots of blades, three bone beads, two bone tubes, one lot of bone tube beads preforms, one dual use bone tube/perforator, three lots of bowl fragments, seven lots of burned and unburned faunal bone fragments, one lot of burned awl fragments, one burned chisel/pry fragment, one burned faunal bone fragment, five burned faunal bone tool fragments, one burned faunal jaw fragment, one burned fishhook fragment, six burned pry fragments, one burned scraper, one burned shell bead, one lot of burned whistle fragments, one caliche with asphaltum, 13 lots of charcoal mixed with other material, one charm stone, three chisel/pry's, one lot of hair pins mixed with chisel/pry's, 39 choppers, two dual use chopper/hammerstones, one contracting stemmed point, four coral fragments, two dual use core/hammerstones, 24 lots of cores, two debitage, 10 lots of doughnut stones, four lots of doughnut stone preforms, two drills, three effigy fragments, one fire affected chopper, 95 lots of fishhooks and fragments, 19 fishhook blanks, three fishhook debitage, 12 lots of fishhook gorges, one lot of fishhook flakes, three fishhook preform fragments, two lots of fishhook preforms, 12 lots of flakes, seven flakers, one fossilized/burned modified faunal bone fragment, one gouge, three gravers, two grinding slabs, one grinding stone fragment, six ground stones, seven hair pins, 27 hammerstones, one lump of iron, two knapping debitage, four lots of knives, one ladle handle, two leaf points, 16 lots of manos, one lot of matrix, one maul, two metates, one lot of modified and unmodified faunal bone fragments, three modified faunal bones, three modified faunal bone tools, seven lots of modified quartz flakes, two modified sandstone fragments, one lot of mixed modified and unmodified shell and faunal fragments, one modified shell blank, two modified shell fragments, two modified steatite fragments, five modified stones, six mortars, one mortar preform, two needle fragments, 12 lots of net weights, one lot of orca effigies, one paint mortar, one palette fragment, one perforated stone, five perforator fragments, 19 lots of pestles, four pestle preforms, 17 picks, one pin, two lots of point fragments, one lot of point fragments with other lithic tools, one point preform fragment, one preform, 22 pry's, two dual use pry/asphaltum applicators, one lot of pseudomorphs, one quarry material, one quartz flake, one reamer, one retouched point, two reused modified shell blanks, two root casts, 15 lots of scrapers, 16 lots of scraper planes, one lots of loose seagrass fragments, three lots of seagrass bundles, two lots of seagrass cordage and material, seven lots of seagrass cordage and woven fragments, 27 lots of seagrass cordage fragments, 10 lots of seagrass knotted cordage fragments, four lots of seagrass matting and matrix, one lot of seagrass matting with asphaltum fragments, four lots of seagrass matting and cordage fragments, 11 lots of seagrass matting fragments, 10 lots of seagrass woven fragments, 26 lots of shell beads, one shell bead preform, one lot of shell beads with asphaltum fragments, one shell blank, four shell ornaments, one shell ornament preform, seven lots of shell pendants, one lot of shell type collection, one side notched point, four side scrapers, one lot of steatite bowl fragments, two stemmed points, one stone bead, one stone ornament, three stone pendants, one sweat scraper fragment, 12 lots of tarring pebbles, four thumbnail scrapers, two unifacially flaked stone tools, eight lots of unmodified chiton shell plates, two unmodified cone snail shells, one lot of unmodified faunal bone and shell fragments, 28 lots of unmodified faunal bones, two unmodified limpet shells, two unmodified otolith bones, four lots of unmodified shells, one unmodified stone, two utilized flakes, one Vandenberg Contracting Stem point, three wedges, one whale effigy fragment, and three whistles. Between the years of 1958 to 1960 the Southwest Museum conducted their own expeditions to San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. The expeditions were conducted under field staff Mr. Bruce Bryan, and assistant curator Dr. Charles E. Rozaire of the Southwest Museum. They collected from the following 43 sites: SNI–4, SNI–5, SNI–6, SNI–7, SNI–8, SNI–9, SNI–10, SNI–11, SNI–12, SNI–13, SNI–14, SNI–15, SNI–16, SNI–18, SNI–21, SNI–25, SNI–38, SNI–39, SNI–40, SNI–41, SNI–47, SNI–50, SNI–51, SNI–52, SNI–53, SNI–55, SNI–57, SNI–58, SNI–59, SNI–62, SNI–70, SNI–79, SNI–84, SNI–85, SNI–88, SNI–90, SNI–91, SNI–92, SNI–94, SNI–97, SNI–97, SNI–99, and SNI–119. Additionally, some cultural material is marked as coming from the island, but site number is unknown. The cultural material entered the Southwest Museum the same year they were collected but wasn't formally accessioned until 2004 and given a 28.F accession number.

A total of three lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The three lots of sacred objects are three lots of ochre. Between the years of 1958 to 1960 the Southwest Museum conducted their own expeditions to San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. The expeditions were conducted under field staff Mr. Bruce Bryan, and assistant curator Dr. Charles E. Rozaire of the Southwest Museum. The 3 lots of ochre (28.F.43A–C) were collected from site CA–SNI–38. The cultural material entered the Southwest Museum the same year they were collected but wasn't formally accessioned until 2004 and given a 28.F accession number.

A total of 1,773 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 1,773 lots of unassociated funerary objects are one China cup fragment, three Coastal Contracting Stem Cluster points, one Diablo Canyon Side Notched point fragment, one abalone scoop, two abalone shell containers, five lots of abalone shell with asphaltum, seven abraders, eight anvils, one asphaltum applicator, three lots of asphaltum basketry impressions, eight asphaltum lumps, two atlatl spurs, 29 lots of awls, one lot of mixed awls/chisels/hair pins/perforators, one lot of mixed awls/pry's/chisels, six bifaces, 12 lots of blades, one blade preform, one blunt bone point fragment, one boat effigy, five bone beads, one bone bead blank, two bone ornaments, one bone pendant debitage, one borer, one bowl, 26 lots of bowl fragments, one bowl preform fragment, two bullet casing, five blunts, one lot of burned and unburned fishhook blanks, one lot of burned and unburned shell beads, three burned awls, seven burned chisel/pry fragments, one burned fishhook fragment, one burned flaker fragment, five burned modified faunal bone fragments, one burned perforator fragment, eight burned pry fragments, two burned shell beads, one burned wedge, one canoe effigy fragment, one champagne bottle, five Chinese jug fragments, 12 lots of chisels, one dual

use chisel/asphaltum applicator, three chisel/pry fragments, 10 choppers, one cobble mortar, five comal fragments, one composite fishhook fragment, two concretions, eight contracting stemmed points, 14 cores, six crockery fragments, three dart point fragments, five lots of debitage, three possible digging stick fragments, 27 lots of doughnut stones, 18 lots of doughnut stone preforms, five drills, one dual use drill/blade, two lots of eel grass matting fragments, one end scraper, one file, one fire affected rock, two fish effigies, nine lots of fishhooks, 146 lots of fishhook fragments, two fishhook barbs, 192 lots of fishhook blanks, 10 lots of fishhook preforms, two fishhook blanks debitage, one fishhook composite shank, one lot of fishhook fragments and preforms, 24 lots of fishhook gorges, one fishing spool, two flakes, one flake scraper, 53 flakers, one lot of mixed flakers with awls and hairpins, one fossilized unmodified shark tooth fragment, one lot of mixed chisels with pry's and wedges, two glass fragments, eight lots of gorgets, 40 lots of gouges, nine gravers, one grinding stone, two grooved stones, two ground stones, 24 lots of hair pins, nine hammerstones, one dual use hammerstone/anvil, one dual use hammerstone/pecking stone, three harpoon barbs, two harpoon parts, five lots of harpoon point fragments, 26 historic glass fragments, one hoe, two lots of San Nicolas Island fox bones, 34 knives, one lanceolate point, one lap stone fragment, eight leaf points, three leaf point preforms, eight manos, one dual use mano/anvil, one metal button, one microdrill, one miniature mortar, one modem butchered bone, three lots of modified and unmodified steatite fragments, 21 modified faunal bone fragments, one modified ground stone fragment, one modified quartz, one modified quartz crystal, one modified shell fragment, six modified steatite fragments, seven modified stone fragments, one modified whale bone, 16 mortars and fragments, three mortar preforms, 10 lots of metal nails, one needle, eight net weights, two net weights preforms, one dual use net weight/hammerstone, three paint mortar fragments, two paint mortars, two pecked stones, three pelican stones, one pendant blank, three perforated stones, six lots of perforators, 24 pestles, four pestle preforms, two dual use pestle/choppers, 14 picks, five lots of pins, one pipe, six pipe fragments, one pipe preform fragment, two plaques fragments, one point blank, 68 lots of points and fragments, five point preforms, five polishing stones, five porcelain dish fragments, one pounder, 103 pry's, three raw material-calcite, three raw material-chert, one raw material-jasper, two raw material-petrified wood, one raw material-serpentine, one raw material-steatite, one raw material-Sulphur, 19 reamers, two retouched points, one reused shell bead, one rivet washer, three rods, one scoop, 60 lots of scrapers, eight scraper plans, two dual use scraper/choppers, one seagrass cordage fragment, one lot of seagrass cordage with woven fragments and a fishhook, five lots of seagrass woven matting fragments, one sharpening stone, 63 lots of shell beads, four shell bead blanks, one lot of shell beads and shell bead discard, one lot of shell beads and shell blanks, 33 lots of shell ornaments, four shell ornament blanks, 51 shell pendants, five lots of shell pendant blanks, one historic shoe sole, one side notched point, six side scrapers, two smoothing stones, one spatula, eight spear points, 14 lots of stone beads, seven stone bead blanks, one stone ornament, 13 stone pendants, three stone pendant blanks, four stone pipe fragments, two stone tube fragments, one whistle made of stone, 18 stoneware dish fragments, three stoneware jug fragments, 11 lots of sweat scrapers, one lot of sweat scrapers and hair pin fragments, two lots of tarring pebbles, three thumbnail scrapers, one triangular point, one uniface, 14 lots of unmodified faunal bones and teeth fragments, two unmodified limpet shells, six lots of unmodified otolith bones, two unmodified purple hinge pectan shells, one unmodified shark tooth fragment, six lots of unmodified shells, 10 unmodified steatite fragments, three unmodified stones, one unmodified tusk fragment, two lots of unmodified whale ear bones, one unmodified whale rib fragment, one utilized flake, two water worn shell fragments, 17 wedges, 17 whistles, and one whistle preform. Between the years of 1976 to 1984, George Kritzman conducted an archaeological surface reconnaissance on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. The cultural material was collected from a numerous sites: CA–SNI–1, SNI–5, SNI–7, SNI–8, SNI–9, SNI–10, SNI–11, SNI–12, SNI–13, SNI–15, SNI–16, SNI–18, SNI–21, SNI–22, SNI–23, SNI–25, SNI–38, SNI–39, SNI–40, SNI–41, SNI–51, SNI–53, SNI–54, SNI–55, SNI–56, SNI–62, SNI–65, SNI–72, SNI–79, SNI–80, SNI–81, SNI–102, SNI–105, SNI–112, SNI–113, SNI–114, SNI–116, SNI–117, SNI–119, SNI–135, SNI–136, SNI–137, SNI–138, SNI–140, SNI–141, SNI–142, SNI–145, SNI–149, SNI–150, SNI–154, SNI–159, SNI–160, SNI–161, SNI–173, SNI–186, SNI–187, SNI–188, SNI–192, SNI–193, SNI–214, SNI–223, SNI–235, SNI–240, SNI–303, and Dutch Harbor. There is also cultural material that have a general place collected of San Nicolas Island as site number is unknown. George Kritzman is the main collector, but other collectors include Dr. Fred M. Reinman, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, and Mr. Lou Zitnick from San Nicolas Island Public Works. The cultural materials (3030.G Collection) were donated to the Southwest Museum by Mr. Kritzman in 1985.

A total of 11 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 11 lots of sacred objects are 11 lots of ochre. Between the years of 1976 to 1984, George Kritzman conducted an archaeological surface reconnaissance on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. The ochre was collected from sites CA–SNI–7, SNI–18, SNI–21, SNI–25, SNI–117, SNI–137, SNI–138, SNI–214, as well as unknown sites. Collectors are Mr. George Kritzman of the Southwest Museum as well as Mr. Lou Zitnick who worked in public works on the island. Mr. Kritzman donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1985.

A total of three cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The three objects of sacred objects/objects of cultural patrimony are two petroglyphs (10.C.75; 13.C.3) and one replica of a petroglyph on plaster (19.C.1244). The two sandstone petroglyphs come from the sacred site of Cave of Whales (CA–SNI–144) on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, CA. The smaller and lower panel (10.C.75) was collected in 1962 by the US Navy and presented to the Southwest Museum for exhibition the same year. The larger and top panel (13.C.3) fell sometime between 1962 and 1976. The panel was first stored at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County before it was transferred to the Southwest Museum in 1987.

A total of three lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The three lots of unassociated funerary objects are one lot of a seagrass skirt with asphaltum weights, one lot of seagrass cordage fragments, and one lot of seagrass apron fragments. In the 1930s, Mr. Howard Arden Edwards of the Antelope Valley Indian Museum, collected the cultural material from unknown sites on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Edwards also worked at the Southwest Museum as preparator. The cultural materials entered the Southwest Museum in 1954 as part of a research exchange (24.X Collection) between the two museums.

A total of one cultural item has been requested for repatriation. The one unassociated funerary object is one boat effigy (149.G.96). Sometime between 1939 to 1946, Miss Rose Dougan collected the cultural material from child's burial from an unknown site on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Miss Dougan donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1946.

A total of 54 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 54 lots of unassociated funerary objects are 11 awls, one Channel Islands Barbed point, six chisel/pry's, one Coastal Contracting Stem Cluster point, one lot of doughnut stones, three fishhooks, one lot of fishhook barbs, two fishhook blanks, one gorget, one hair pin, one hammerstone, one leaf point, one mortar, two net weights, two perforated stones, four points, two reamers, two scrapers, three shell ornaments, four lots of shell pendants, one stone ring fragment, one vessel, one whistle, and one winged crescent knife. In the 1930, Mrs. Agee, Island occupant, and Mr. Clifford Park Baldwin collected cultural material from unknown sites on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Baldwin purchased Mrs. Agee's collection, and together with cultural material he collected, donated the cultural material (534.G Collection) to the Southwest Museum in 1932 and 1935.

A total of seven cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The seven unassociated funerary objects are one bone bead, one bowl fragment, one doughnut stone, one modified faunal bone fragment, one net weight, one reamer, and one tarring pebble. Sometime between 1920 to 1944, Mr. Franklin R. Johnston collected cultural material from his campsite on an unknown location on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Johnston (948.G Collection) donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1944.

A total of 20 cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 20 unassociated funerary objects are 20 shell ornaments (1059.G.2A–4J). In 1929, Mr. Arthur R. Sanger as part of the Los Angeles County Museum Expedition to the islands, collected the cultural material from Corral Harbor on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Sanger donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1946.

A total of one lot of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The one lot of unassociated funerary objects is one lot of seagrass matting fragments (1349.G.1). In the 1930s, Mr. Howard Arden Edwards, and Mr. Agee (island occupant) collected the cultural material for the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. In 1940, Mr. Edwards donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum.

A total of 27 lots of cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The 27 lots of unassociated funerary objects are six lots of basketry impressions and matrix, two fishhooks, 16 fishhook blanks, one hair pin, one potsherd, and one lot of soil samples. In 1927, Mr. George Kritzman collected cultural materials from CA–SNI–11, SNI–18, and SNI–54 as part of his reconnaissance to San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Kritzman donated the cultural material (2300.G Collection) to the Southwest Museum in 1982.

A total of two cultural items has been requested for repatriation. The two unassociated funerary objects are one mortar preform (2399.G.1) and one pestle preform (2399.G.2). Sometime between the 1976 to 1984, George Kritzman conducted an archaeological surface reconnaissance on San Nicolas Island, Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. Museum records do not which site these two cultural materials are from. Mr. Kritzman donated the cultural material to the Southwest Museum in 1985.

Determinations

The Navy and the Autry Museum of the American West have determined that:

- The 3,017 lots of 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 80 lots of 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 three 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 La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, California; Pala Band of Mission Indians; Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pauma &Yuima Reservation, California; Pechanga Band of Indians (previously listed as Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation, California); Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians (previously listed as Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of Rincon Reservation, California); Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation, California; and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, 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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Navy and 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 Navy and 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13756 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7280; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043138; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), San Bernardino County 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Gabrielle Carpentier, San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA 92374, email *gabrielle.carpentier@sbcm.sbcounty.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 San Bernardino County 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 39 cultural items have been requested for repatriation.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony are lithics. SBCM–109 (Kern County, trinomial unknown), Randsburg Mormon Wells, was collected and reported on by Dee Simpson (San Bernadino County Archaeologist) on March 25, 1978 The objects were first recorded on 6/16/1989 by Carol Rector (SBCM).

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony are lithics. SBCM–263 (Kern County, trinomial unknown), Willow Springs, was collected by the Archaeological Survey Association (ASA) at an unknown date. The objects were first recorded in June 1964 by J. Smith.

The five lots of objects of cultural patrimony are one lot of lithics, one lot of groundstone, one lot of unworked faunal bone, one lot of ecofacts, and one lot of charcoal. SBCM–272 (Kern County, trinomial unknown), Oak Creek Cave at California Portland Cement was first recorded and mapped on June 1964.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–273 (Kern County, trinomial unknown), Oak Creek at California Portland Cement was first recorded and mapped on June 1964.

The four lots of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of ceramics, one lot of lithics, one lot of unworked faunal bone, one lot of historics. SBCM–274 (Kern County, trinomial unknown), Oak Creek Spring at California Portland Cement was first recorded and mapped on June 1964.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–432 (Kern County, trinomial unknown), Desert Butte, north of Edwards Air Forse Base was recorded at an unknown date.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of ceramics. SBCM–478 (CA–KER–221, Southwest Museum Number/ASA 39–S), Phillips Ranch Site in Sand Canyon was recorded by Gordon Redfeldt and excavated from 1954 to 2956 by the Archaeological Survey Association of Southern California.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–488 (Kern County, trinomial unknown), Cantil A, B, C, was recorded on May 31, 1950.

The seven lots of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of ceramics, one lot of lithics, one lot of unworked shell, one lot of unworked faunal bone, one lot of worked faunal bone, one lot of ecofacts, and one lot of charcoal. SBCM–546 (Kern County, trinomial unknown), Horse Thief Canyon was recorded by Stuart Peck (ASA) in 1941, 1947, and 1950.

The five lots of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of ceramics, one lot of lithics, one lot of groundstone, one lot of worked shell, one lot of unworked faunal bone. SBCM–1090 (Kern County, trinomial unknown) San Canyon, Tehachapi have no further documentation regarding excavation. The objects were recorded by J. Perry on February 11, 1988.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–1098 (Kern County, trinomial unknown) Freeman Gulch surveyed and recorded by R.E. Reynolds in February 1969. The objects were recorded by J. Perry on February 11, 1988.

The two lots of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics and one lot of groundstone. SBCM–1125 (Kern County, trinomial unknown, ASA 49–S) Horse Canyon was visited by an ASA field trip from March 15–17, 1947 to do ''survey and reconnaissance.'' It was later recorded by Gerald Smith on 5/11/1974. The objects were recorded by C. Beekman at an unknown date.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–2221 (Kern County, trinomial unknown) Boron Buttes #1 was recorded by Gerald Smith in March 1973. The objects were recorded by C. Beekman at an unknown date.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–2789 (Kern County, CA–SBR–3208, ASA #4–S) Willow Spring was recorded by L. Eckhardt on July 20, 1978. The objects were recorded in April 7, 1988.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–5697 (CA–KER–385) Kern River Pipeline, UNLV was inventoried and evaluated by ASM Affiliated, Inc in October 1997 for Catellus Development Corporation.

The two lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics and one lot of historics. SBCM–5780 (CA–KER–385H) Kern River Pipeline, UNLV was inventoried and evaluated by ASM Affiliated, Inc in October 1997 for Catellus Development Corporation.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–5877 (Kern County, trinomial unknown) House Creek Canyon (McCown Collection) was excavated and recorded by Benjamin McCown on February 15, 1947.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–5916 (Kern County, trinomial unknown) Indian Wells Valley (McCown) was excavated and recorded by Benjamin McCown on May 21, 1949.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–5943(Kern County, trinomial unknown) Red Rock Canyon was excavated by Benjamin McCown at an unknown date.

The one lot of objects of cultural patrimony is one lot of lithics. SBCM–6298 (Kern County, trinomial unknown)

Cache Creek was excavated and recorded by Benjamin McCown on February 15, 1947 and April 4, 1947, respectively.

Determinations

San Bernardino County Museum has determined that:

- The 39 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 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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, San Bernardino County 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. San Bernardino County 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13743 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7281; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043139; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University (PMAE) 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Jane Pickering, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, email *jpickering@fas.harvard.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 PMAE, 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 item has been requested for repatriation. The one object of cultural patrimony is one lot of basket bags from Kern County, California that was donated to the Peabody Museum by Lewis Farlow in 1903.

Determinations

The PMAE has determined that:

- The one object of cultural patrimony described in this notice has 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 item 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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the PMAE 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 PMAE 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13744 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7289; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043146; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: 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, 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice to Cristin Lucas, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, 1013 E University Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85721–0026, 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 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, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In 1972, personnel from the Arizona State Museum recorded a Mogollon ceramic and lithic scatter in Arizona's San Simon Valley as part of the TG&E Clifton–Vail Survey project. The site, designated AZ CC:10:3(ASM), was assigned to the Mogollon archaeological tradition based on ceramics identified during the survey. In 2010, ancestral remains were located among the survey collections associated with the project.

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 Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of one individual of Native American ancestry.
- There is a reasonable connection between the human remains described in this notice and the Hopi Tribe of Arizona and the Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico.

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 a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the human remains in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after August 7, 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 human remains 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.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13748 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7291; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043148; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of California, Berkeley 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Alexandra Lucas, Government and Community Relations, Office of the Chancellor. University of California, Berkeley, 200 California Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720, email *nagpra-ucb@berkeley.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 California, Berkeley, 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

In 1907 and 1938, the University of California Museum of Anthropology (today the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology) accessioned 36 lots of objects of cultural patrimony removed from the area of Indian Wells, Riverside County, CA and represented in museum records as CA–RIV–64. The objects of cultural patrimony include worked stone, faunal remains, and ceramic fragments.

Collections and collection spaces at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology were treated with substances for preservation and pest control, some potentially hazardous. No records have been found to date at the Museum to indicate whether or not chemicals or natural substances were used prior to 1960.

Determinations

The University of California, Berkeley has determined that:

- The 36 lots of 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 reasonable connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, 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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the University of California, Berkeley 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 University of California, Berkeley 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13750 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7288; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043145; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: 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, 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to Cristin Lucas, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, 1013 E University Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85721–0026, 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 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, human remains representing, at least, four individuals have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, a private citizen recovered ancestral remains from an unidentified location in southern Arizona, likely in the vicinity of Tucson. ASM received the remains in 2000 and assigned them the designation AZ 2000–295. No additional provenience information is available.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The 17 associated funerary objects include a ceramic jar, a ceramic bowl, and ceramic sherds. On a date prior to 1950, a private citizen removed a cremation vessel housing ancestral remains from an unrecorded location in southern Arizona. The vessel and accompanying bowl are identified as Hohokam Classic period ceramics. In 1996, ASM received the ancestral remains and associated funerary objects, designated AZ 96–267, from a descendant of the collector through the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. On an unknown date, AZ AA:12:409(ASM), a Hohokam Classic period compound at the base of the Tortolita Mountains, was surface collected as part of the Northern Tucson Basin Survey project. The resulting collections were subsequently transferred to the ASM Repository under a curation agreement. During a review of the bulk survey collections in June 2010, ancestral remains were identified among the materials from this site.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. In March 2006, Statistical Research, Inc. excavated AZ BB:13:17(ASM), a Hohokam village site situated on the terrace and floodplain of the Santa Cruz River, as part of the Julian Wash Data Recovery project. Collections from the project were transferred to ASM under a repository agreement on October 24, 2012. During a 2022 review of the project's bulk collections, ancestral remains were identified among the curated materials.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, two individuals have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. Between December 1970 and May 1971, the Arizona State Museum Highway Salvage Program excavated AZ BB:6:6(ASM), a small Hohokam Pre-Classic period hamlet in the lower San Pedro Valley, as part of the Peppersauce Wash Project. In 1974, the project collections were transferred to ASM under a curation agreement.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, 56 individuals have been reasonably identified. The 61 associated funerary objects include a bone artifact, a bone awl, ceramic figurine fragments, ceramic bowls, ceramic jars, ceramic scoops, ceramic sherds, lithic flaked stone, lithic projectile points, lithic core, a stone palette, a shell fragment, a shell ring fragment, shell beads, red ochre. Between December 1970 and May 1971, personnel from the Arizona State Museum excavated AZ BB:6:9(ASM) as part of the Peppersauce Wash Project in the lower San Pedro River Valley. The site is a large residential settlement dating to the Hohokam Preclassic period. In 1974, the project collections were transferred to the Arizona State Museum under a curation agreement.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The one associated funerary object is a ceramic jar. Prior to 1917, a private citizen affiliated with the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) removed a cremation vessel containing ancestral remains from the Salt–Gila River Basin in Maricopa County, Arizona. In May 1917, AAHS transferred the ancestral remains and associated funerary object to the Arizona State Museum, where they were assigned the designation AZ Cremation 13.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The one associated funerary object is a ceramic jar. Prior to May 18, 1967, the Arizona State Museum

received ancestral remains housed within a Salado cremation vessel from an unknown source and unrecorded provenience. In 2009, the ancestral remains and associated funerary item were identified in the museum during an inventory of collections and assigned the designation AZ Cremation 25.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The one associated funerary object is a ceramic jar. Prior to January 14, 1944, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains and an associated funerary object from E.B. ''Ted'' Sayles, designated AZ Cremation 29. No provenience information is recorded in the archives; however, the associated funerary object is identified as Hohokam Salt River redware, suggesting a south-central Arizona origin.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, six individuals have been reasonably identified. No associated funerary objects are present. Between 1968 and 1975, Cochise College, under the direction of Richard Myers, excavated AZ FF:7:13(ASM) on the west side of Walnut Canyon Creek in Cochise County, Arizona. Following completion of the excavations, collections were curated by the Cochise County Historical and Archaeological Society. In 1972, Myers loaned ancestral remains and faunal materials to the Arizona State Museum for identification and documentation; all materials were returned to him in 1985. At a later, unknown date, ancestral remains from this site were identified within faunal collections.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The one associated funerary object is a ceramic jar. Prior to 1917, a private citizen affiliated with the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS) removed a cremation vessel containing ancestral remains from the Gila Valley in Maricopa County, Arizona. In May 1917, AAHS transferred the ancestral remains and accompanying associated funerary object to the Arizona State Museum, where they were assigned the designation AZ Gila Valley. In March 1954, the ancestral remains were transferred to the University of Arkansas Museum as part of an exchange. In 2012, the ancestral remains were returned to the Arizona State Museum and reunited with their associated funerary belonging. The jar is identified as Hohokam Sacaton Red-on-buff.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The 25 associated funerary objects include ceramic sherds, flaked stone, and a projectile point. In 2009, ancestral remains designated AZ ML–88–0944 were identified within collections at the Arizona State Museum. Based on the presence of Hohokam Classic period ceramics among the associated funerary objects, the remains and items are believed to originate from a southern Arizona location.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The two associated funerary objects are a ceramic jar and a fragment of modified shell. Prior to January 1944, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains and an associated funerary object, designated Cremation 44, from an unknown source and unrecorded provenience. The associated funerary object, a Gila Redware jar, suggests that the remains and object originated in central to southern Arizona.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The one associated funerary object is a ceramic jar. Prior to 1956, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains and an associated funerary object, designated Cremation 30, from an unknown source and unrecorded provenience. The associated funerary object, a Hohokam Gila Plainware jar, suggests that the remains and object originated in central to southern Arizona.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, three individuals have been reasonably identified. The 11 associated funerary objects include a ceramic jar, faunal bone, shell fragments, ceramic fragments, and wood fragments. In 1993, the Arizona State Museum received, through a bequest, ancestral remains and associated funerary objects collected by a private citizen from an unrecorded location. The Hohokam Gila Plainware jar housing the remains and other cultural items suggests an origin in central to southern Arizona.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, two individuals have been reasonably identified. The seven associated funerary objects include a ceramic jar, faunal bone, and ceramic sherds. On an unknown date, the Arizona State Museum received ancestral remains and associated funerary objects designated Cremation 55. No source or provenience information is documented in archive records. Based on the Hohokam Gila Plainware vessel, it is believed the ancestral remains and associated funerary objects originate from a central to southern Arizona location.

Based on the information available, human remains representing, at least, one individual have been reasonably identified. The two associated funerary objects are a ceramic jar and one lot of shell beads. In July 1940, a private citizen removed a cremation vessel containing ancestral remains from the Babocomari River area of southeastern Arizona. The Arizona State Museum received the ancestral remains and associated funerary objects through a bequest in 1969.

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 Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of 84 individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The 130 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 reasonable connection between the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Ak-Chin Indian Community; Gila River Indian Community of the Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona; Hopi Tribe of Arizona; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of the Salt River Reservation, Arizona; Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona; and the Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico.

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 a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after August 7, 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 human remains and associated funerary objects 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.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13747 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7295; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043152; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Denver Art Museum 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the associated funerary objects in this notice to Jennie Trujillo, Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80203, email *jtrujillo@denverartmuseum.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 Denver Art 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

The five associated funerary objects are pottery sherds. In 1906, five ceramic sherds (1934.116–1934.120) were removed from Jefferson Co., NY by Mark Raymond Harrington and Iwin Hayden during Harvard Peabody Museum excavations. These objects were recovered from the Heath Farm site near Rodman and were exchanged with the Denver Art Museum in 1934. Museum records indicate these objects were recovered along with human remains, and the Peabody Museum reported these individuals and funerary objects, including sherds, in a Notice of Inventory Completion published in the **Federal Register** on October 5, 2001 (66 FR 51060). After consultations, the Peabody Museum found that the objects from the Heath Farm Site were culturally affiliated with the Oneida Indian Nation, Oneida Nation, and Onondaga Nation. Per a Notice of Intended Repatriation published in the **Federal Register** by the Peabody Museum on June 17, 2024 (89 FR 51360), objects in the Peabody collection were repatriated to the Onondaga Nation in 2024. There are no known hazardous substances used to treat the objects.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the information available about the associated funerary objects described in this notice.

Determinations

The Denver Art Museum has determined that:

- The five 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 associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Oneida Indian Nation; Oneida Nation; and the Onondaga Nation.

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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Denver Art Museum 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 Denver Art 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13754 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7292; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043149; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Denver Art Museum 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the associated funerary objects in this notice to Jennie Trujillo, Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80203, email *jtrujillo@denverartmuseum.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 Denver Art 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

The three associated funerary objects are pottery sherds. In 1903, three ceramic sherds (1934.121–1934.123) were removed from the Silverheels Site on the Cattaraugus Reservation in Erie Co., NY. These objects were recovered by Mark Raymond Harrington and Arthur Caswell Parker during Harvard Peabody Museum excavations near the town of Brant and were later exchanged with the Denver Art Museum in 1934. Museum records indicate no human remains were recovered with these specific objects, but human remains were recovered from the Silverheels Site along with ceramic sherds classified as funerary objects by the Peabody Museum. Historical and geographical information indicate that these objects are from areas considered to be the aboriginal homelands and traditional burial grounds of the Haudenosaunee. The present-day Indian Tribes who represent the Haudenosaunee are the Cayuga Nation; Oneida Indian Nation; Oneida Nation; Onondaga Nation; Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe; Seneca Nation of Indians; Seneca-Cayuga Nation; Tonawanda Band of Seneca; and the Tuscarora Nation. There are no known hazardous materials used to treat any of the objects.

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 Denver Art Museum has determined that:

- The three 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 associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Cayuga Nation; Oneida Indian Nation; Oneida Nation; Onondaga Nation; Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe; Seneca Nation of Indians; Seneca-Cayuga Nation; Tonawanda Band of Seneca; and the Tuscarora Nation.

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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Denver Art Museum 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 Denver Art 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: June 30, 2026

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13751 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7313; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043157; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University (PMAE) 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to Jane Pickering, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, email *jpickering@fas.harvard.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 PMAE, 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, 10 individuals have been identified. The one associated funerary object is one lot of a ceramic vessel. Howard F. Gilson removed these ancestors and funerary belonging from an unknown location in ''eastern Tennessee'' in 1875, and Alden P. Gilson donated them to the Peabody Museum in 1947.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. The ancestral remains were previously in the possession of the PMAE but are currently not located. The seven associated funerary objects are seven lots of stone tools and projectile points.

The ancestral remains and associated funerary objects were removed from a cave or rock shelter in Sullivan County, TN, by John W. Emmert in 1883 as part of a Peabody Museum expedition.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. The four associated funerary objects are four lots of stone tools and stone items. The ancestral remains and associated funerary objects were removed from Wasson Mound (40SL10) in Sullivan County, TN, by John W. Emmert in 1890 as part of a Peabody Museum expedition.

Human remains representing, at least, one individual have been identified. The five associated funerary objects are five lots of stone tools, stone items, projectile points, and copper beads. The ancestral remains and associated funerary objects were removed from ''stone graves'' in Sullivan County, TN, by John W. Emmert in 1892 and donated to the PMAE the same year.

Associated funerary objects representing 22 cultural items have been identified. The 22 associated funerary objects are 22 lots of ceramic items, stone items, stone tools, groundstone, stone pipes, projectile points, shell beads, and faunal remains. The associated funerary objects were removed from a cave or rock house in Sullivan County, TN, by John W. Emmert in 1883 as part of a Peabody Museum expedition.

Associated funerary objects representing seven cultural items have been identified. The seven associated funerary objects are seven lots of stone tools, projectile points, stone items, and shell items, including beads. The associated funerary objects were removed from Odell Mound in Sullivan County, TN, by John W. Emmert in 1892 and donated to the PMAE the same year.

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 PMAE has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of 13 individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The 46 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 Cherokee Nation; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; The Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the PMAE 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 PMAE 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13758 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7277; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043135; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Warren Anatomical Museum Collection, Center for the History of Medicine in the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard University, Boston, MA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University (PMAE) and Warren Anatomical Museum collection in the Center for the History of Medicine, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard University (CHoM) have completed an inventory of human remains and have 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice to Jane Pickering, Director, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, email *jpickering@fas.harvard.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 PMAE and CHoM, Harvard University 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, two individuals have been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. The remains of the individuals were found in the Warren Anatomical Museum collection, and their housing suggested they are from the Hawaiian Islands.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is reasonably identified by the information available about the human remains described in this notice.

Determinations

The PMAE and CHoM have determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of two individuals of Native American ancestry.
- There is a reasonable connection between the human remains described in this notice and the Hui Iwi Kuamo'o.

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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the PMAE and CHoM 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 PMAE and CHoM are 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13740 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7279; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043137; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Oshkosh, WI

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO) 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the associated funerary objects in this notice to Adrienne Frie, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, 800 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, WI 54901, email *friea@uwosh.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 UWO, 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

In the 1980s, human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from the Fox Tower site (47–WN–0258), Winnebago County, WI by both UWO faculty and private collectors, and later donated to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (UWO). In June 2022, UWO published a Notice of Inventory Completion describing the human remains and a portion of the associated funerary objects and completed the repatriation process to the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Additional consultation with affiliated Tribes in 2026 determined that all materials from the surface of the site should be considered as associated funerary objects, since the site itself was significantly disturbed by plowing and those items may have been part of a burial. The five associated funerary objects are one lot of lithics, one lot of faunal material, one lot of post-contact ceramics, one lot of glass, and one lot of post-contact metal.

Between 1966 and before 1972, human remains and associated funerary objects were removed from the Hoffman Site (47–WN–0132), Winnebago County, WI by different private collectors and donated to the UWO. In June 2022, UWO published a Notice of Inventory Completion describing the human remains and a portion of the associated funerary objects and completed the repatriation process to the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Additional consultation with affiliated Tribes in 2026 determined that all materials from the surface of the site should be considered as associated funerary objects, since the site itself was significantly disturbed by plowing and those items may have been part of a burial. The 11 associated funerary objects are two lots of lithics, two lots of pre-contact ceramics, two lots of faunal material, two lots of post-contact ceramics, one lot of glass, one lot of post-contact metal, and one lot of unknown material.

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

UWO has determined that:

- The 16 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 associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana; Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians of the Bad River Reservation, Wisconsin; Bay Mills Indian Community, Michigan; Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota; Chippewa Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, Montana; Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma; Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota; Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota; Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Michigan; Hannahville Indian Community, Michigan; Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin; Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska; Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma; Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Michigan; Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas; Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas; Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma; Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin; Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin; Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Michigan; Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana; Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota; Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota; Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish

Band of Pottawatomi (previously listed as Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan); Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin; Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota (Six component reservations: Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake); Fond du Lac Band; Grand Portage Band; Leech Lake Band; Mille Lacs Band; White Earth Band); Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Michigan; Oglala Sioux Tribe; Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians, Oklahoma; Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Michigan and Indiana; Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation; Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota; Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin; Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota; Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota; Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska; Sac & Fox Nation, Oklahoma; Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa; Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan; Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska; Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Michigan; Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota; Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota; Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Wisconsin; Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota; St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin; Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota; Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of 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 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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, UWO 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. UWO 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13742 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7314; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043159; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University (PMAE) 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Jane Pickering, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, email *jpickering@fas.harvard.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 PMAE, 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 70 cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 70 unassociated funerary objects are 70 lots of ceramic sherds and vessels, chunkey stones, shell items (including beads, pins, ear plugs, and gorgets), worked faunal remains, stone vessels and vessel fragments, stone tools, stone items, mica, projectile points, pipes, and unidentified items.

Of the 70 total unassociated funerary objects, 28 lots were removed from a cave or rock shelter in Sullivan County, TN, by John W. Emmert in 1883 as part of a Peabody Museum expedition. Of the 70 total unassociated funerary objects, four lots were removed from Odell Farm in Sullivan County, TN, by John W. Emmert in 1892 and donated to the PMAE the same year.

Of the 70 total unassociated funerary objects, the remaining 38 lots were removed from mounds and ''stone graves'' in unknown counties in eastern Tennessee. Available geographic information, which includes references to proximity to known towns, rivers, and valleys, places these mounds and graves in eastern Tennessee. These items were removed by various collectors, including A. M. Crandall, Edwin Curtiss, Charles C. Jones, Jr., William H. Claflin, Jr., and John W. Emmert, between 1872 and 1927, and were donated to the PMAE or acquired via a Peabody Museum expedition between 1872 and 1985.

Determinations

The PMAE has determined that:

- The 70 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 connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Cherokee Nation; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; The Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in 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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the PMAE 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 PMAE 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13759 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7283; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043140; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University (PMAE) 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice to Jane Pickering, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, email *jpickering@fas.harvard.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 PMAE, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the 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, eight individuals have been identified. No associated funerary objects are present. The human remains were removed from Diamond Head, Oahu, HI in 1865 and acquired by the Boston Society of Natural History. They were transferred to the PMAE in 1916 and 1959.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the available information and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the information available about the human remains described in this notice.

Determinations

The PMAE has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of eight individuals of Native American ancestry.
- There is a reasonable connection between the human remains described in this notice and the Hui Iwi Kuamoʻo.

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 a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the human remains in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the PMAE 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 PMAE 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13745 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7298; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043156; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, Washington, DC, and 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 U.S Department of Defense, Department of the Navy (Navy) and the Autry Museum of the American West (Southwest Museum Collection) 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects 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* and

John O'Connor, Ph.D., RPA, Channel Islands Archaeologist, NAVFAC SW, 750 Pacific Highway, ATTN: EV22/Floor #12, San Diego, CA 92132, email *john.t.oconnor88.civ@us.navy.mil* and Richard G. Bark, Region Archaeologist, NAVFAC SW, 750 Pacific Highway, ATTN: EV22/Floor #12, San Diego, CA 92132, email *richard.g.bark.civ@us.navy.mil.*

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 Navy and 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 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. The one lot of associated funerary objects are Russian blue glass trade beads. In 1913 an unknown collector collected a human skull (1.Q.38) from an unknown location on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. It is unknown when or how the human remains became to be a part of the Southwest Museum collection (now part of the Autry Museum of the American West). At one point, museum staff drilled holes into the cranium and added the trade beads forming a cap and was most likely put on display.

Human remains representing at least four individuals have been identified. The three associated funerary objects are one unmodified giant key-hole limpet shell, one unmodified tegula shell, and one lot of unmodified faunal bones. Sometime between 1961–1967, human remains and associated funerary objects were collected from a burial on an unknown site on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA by Mr. James McEowen (17.C.79). The remains were collected while Mr. McEowen was stationed at the Naval Ordnance Test Station, Long Beach detail when the island was controlled by the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS). It is unknown when exactly the human remains and associated funerary objects entered the Southwest Museum (now part of the Autry Museum).

Human remains representing at least four individuals have been identified. The six lots of associated funerary objects are one lot of Olivella disk beads, one lot of California Mussel shell beads, one mortar, one pestle, one cupped Olivella shell bead, and one incised steatite ornament. Circa 1908, Mr. Miles Orton Bolser (1293.G) collected human remains and associated funerary objects from burials on the Northeast Harbor (aka Wilson Cove) of San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, Channel Islands, CA. Mr. Bolser donated the items to the Southwest Museum (now part of the Autry Museum) in 1952.

Human remains representing at least three individuals have been identified. The three associated funerary objects are two abalone shell possible disk beads, and one bone bead. Between 1960–1961, Mr. Gerald Nelson (1668.G) collected human remains and associated funerary objects from Ledge Site (CA–SCLI–126) on San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County, CA. Mr. Nelson visited the site and excavated at three separate hilltop sites at the Ledge Site which he called Nelson Site 1, Nelson Site 2, and Nelson Site 3. The human remains and associated funerary objects come from Nelson Site 1. Mr. Nelson donated the cultural materials to the Southwest Museum (now part of the Autry Museum) in 1961.

Based on the information available, 20 lots of associated funerary objects have been found to be associated with human remains listed in a Notice of Inventory Completion published in the **Federal Register** on June 28, 2019 (84 FR 31092) and repatriated. The 20 associated funerary objects are four lots of bone beads, one chisel/asphaltum applicator, one contracting stem point, one flaker, one chert microlith, one possible paddle shaped object, one point fragment, one scraper plane, one lot of scrapers, three lots of Olivella shell beads, one lot of Olivella shell bead blanks, two side notched points, one lot of unmodified faunal bone fragments, and one lot of unmodified shells with soil. On November 30th, 1976, Mr. George Kritzman, Assistant Curator of Archaeology at the Southwest Museum of the American Indian (now part of the Autry Museum of the American West), collected from a bead cache on the surface of site CA–SNI–12, San Nicolas Island in Ventura County, Channel Islands, CA. The items entered the Southwest Museum the same year the objects were found.

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 Navy and the Autry Museum of the American West have determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of 12 individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The 33 lots of 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 La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians, California; Pala Band of Mission Indians; Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pauma &Yuima Reservation, California; Pechanga Band of Indians (previously listed as Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation, California); Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians (previously listed as Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of Rincon Reservation, California); Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation, California; and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, California.

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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Navy and the Autry Museum of the American West 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 Navy and 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 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13757 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7278; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043136; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Case Western Reserve University 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice to Jennifer Kangas Berendt, Executive Director for Research Compliance, Case Western Reserve University, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106, email *cwru-nagpra@case.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 Case Western Reserve University, 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 29 individuals have been identified. All remains were donated to the Hamann-Todd Human Osteological Collection in 1931 by Dr. I. Lester Furnas. Dr. Furnas, a professor at the School of Dentistry, Western Reserve University, traveled to Alaska in 1931 to study Inuit dentition and provide dental services. The expedition was sponsored by the United States Public Health Service. According to skeletal notes and correspondence, 13 remains are from Nunivak Island, eight are from Point Hope, and four are from Point Barrow. Additionally, two are noted as ''Alaska: Point Barrow, Point Hope, or Nunivak Island'' and two are labeled as ''Alaska'' with no specific geographical designation. The remains include partial skeletons of eight males, 15 females, four children and two are unknown. The identity of the individuals is unknown. No known presence of potentially hazardous materials.

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 Case Western Reserve University has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of 29 individuals of Native American ancestry.
- There is a connection between the human remains described in this notice and the Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government; Native Village of Mekoryuk; and the Native Village of Point Hope.

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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, Case Western Reserve University 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 Case Western Reserve University 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13741 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7275; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043133; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Antelope Valley College, Lancaster, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Antelope Valley College (AVC) intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Dr. Darcy L. Wiewall, Antelope Valley College, Department of Anthropology, 3041 W Ave. K, Lancaster, CA 93536, email *darcy.wiewall@avc.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 Antelope Valley College, 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 426 cultural items, 383 objects of cultural patrimony from the Burnt Peak Pictograph (CA–LAN–484/AVC–2) site and 43 unassociated funerary objects from the Green Valley Cemetery (CA–LAN–487/AVC–6) site have been requested for repatriation.

A total of 383 objects of cultural patrimony are one lot of faunal bone, one lot of organic material, 15 lots of shell material, 346 lots of flaked stone, and 20 lots of ground stone. The Burnt Peak Pictograph (CA–LAN–484/AVC–2) site is in the foothills of the Sierra Pelona on the southwestern edge of the Antelope Valley in the western Mojave Desert, North Los Angeles County. The site was excavated by Roger W. Robinson, Instructor of Anthropology at Antelope Valley College (AVC) in the fall of 1968 with volunteers from AVC. The site was temporarily recorded as AVC–2, later assigned the trinomial CA–LAN–484. All work performed by AVC was published in the article ''*Test Excavations at the Burnt Peak Pictograph Site (CA–LAN–484), Western Mojave Desert, California*'' by Mark Q. Sutton and Roger W. Robinson (2021). This is the only report published on the excavations.

The materials from the site were initially catalogued at AVC in 1968. The collection was then transferred to California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). During the 2004 cataloguing effort at CSUB, human remains were discovered in the collection. This discovery was immediately reported to the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office (letter dated November 4, 2004, sent by certified mail to Mr. Anthony T. Hernandez), and copied to Larry Myers of the Native American Heritage Commission. CSUB never received a response from either party. In 2021, the collection was returned to Antelope Valley College. Based on artifact typology and the absence of European material culture, it is suggested the human remains date to the Late Prehistoric Period Post-A.D. 900, but before European contact. No hazardous substances are known to have been used to treat any of the cultural items.

A total of 43 cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The 43 unassociated funerary objects include a ground stone bowl, shell beads and ornaments, and flaked stone. The Green Valley Cemetery (CA–LAN–487/AVC–6) site is in Green Valley, California, on the southwestern edge of the Antelope Valley in the western Mojave Desert, North Los Angeles County. The site was excavated by Roger W. Robinson, Instructor of Anthropology at Antelope Valley College on May 30 and 31, 1971 as part of an emergency salvage operation. A total of 15 human burials were identified during the salvage excavations. The site record and publication note that all human remains were given to a tribal elder, Semu Huaute in July 1971 for reburial (Robinson 1987). In 1972, R.W. Robinson published ''*A Salvage Excavation of an Alliklik Cemetery in Green Valley, California*''. This is the only report published on the excavations. Based on artifact typology and the absence of European material culture, it is suggested the human remains date to the Late Prehistoric Period Post-A.D. 900, but before European contact. No human remains were identified during the AVC inventory. No hazardous substances are known to have been used to treat any of the cultural items.

Based on archaeological context and information obtained through consultation with representatives of the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (previously listed as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, California), as well as non-federally recognized California Tribes including the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, these cultural items have been identified as culturally affiliated. Archaeological evidence indicates that Serrano peoples have continuously occupied the San Gabriel Mountains and surrounding regions for approximately 5,000–6,000 BP. Linguistic data further support a strong and continuous shared group identity between these ancestral populations and present-day Native American communities of Serrano descent. Additionally, ethnographic evidence and Traditional Knowledge recognize the Antelope Valley region as the ancestral homeland of Serrano peoples since time immemorial.

Determinations

The Antelope Valley College has determined that:

- The 43 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 383 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 reasonable connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (previously listed as San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, 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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, Antelope Valley College 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 Antelope Valley College 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13738 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7293; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043150; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Denver Art Museum 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the associated funerary objects in this notice to Jennie Trujillo, Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80203, email *jtrujillo@denverartmuseum.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 Denver Art 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

The five associated funerary objects include ceramic vessels (1933.141–1933.144 and possibly 1933.189). In 1903, five ceramic vessels were acquired from Apache Co., AZ, by Charles Schenck. According to museum documentation, Schenck toured Canyon de Chelly in 1903 with Charles Day who previously identified several burial sites in the area. Day and Schenck removed several individuals from the surface at multiple sites, including Sentinel Ruin, Massacre Cave, and Canyon del Muerto, however it is unclear if Schenck recovered the ceramic objects himself or purchased them from Day's store. Schenck later entrusted the remains to the Colorado Historical Society (now History Colorado) and the ceramic objects to the Denver Art Museum in 1933. A total of four objects appear similar in style and age, while one object (1933.189) was identified as potentially a more recent Zuni work. According to a Notice of Inventory Completion published in the **Federal Register** by History Colorado on May 13, 2011 (76 FR 28071), History Colorado contacted several possibly affiliated Tribes and found cultural affiliation for the remains with the Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico, & Utah. There are no known hazardous materials used to treat any of the objects.

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 Denver Art Museum has determined that:

- The five 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 associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Navajo Nation, Arizona, New Mexico, & Utah.

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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Denver Art Museum 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 Denver Art 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13752 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7294; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043151; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Denver Art Museum (DAM) has completed an inventory of associated funerary objects and has determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the associated funerary object and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the associated funerary object in this notice may occur on or after August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the associated funerary object in this notice to Jennie Trujillo, Denver Art Museum, 100 W 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80203, email *jtrujillo@denverartmuseum.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 Denver Art 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

The one associated funerary object is a ceramic vessel. In 1988, the Denver Art Museum purchased a dog effigy jar from the Caddo Trading Company in Murfreesboro, Arkansas. The DAM has little documentation on this object, and there is no documentation on this object being from a burial. However, this jar was published in Roy Hathcock's 1983 *Quapaw and Their Pottery: A Pictorial*

Study of Proto-Historic Pottery of the Quapaw Indians, 1650–1750 AD (see pg. 137 & 175, fig. 292) as being in a private collection and had provenience to the Clay Hill Site in Lee County, AR, supported by a label on the bottom of the jar as well. According to a Notice of Inventory Completion published in the **Federal Register** by the Arkansas Archaeological Survey on January 30, 2018 (83 FR 4251), at an unknown date the remains of numerous individuals and funerary objects, including ceramic vessels and sherds, were recovered from the Clay Hill Site in Lee Co. Diagnostic artifacts found at the Clay Hill site indicate that these ancestors were probably buried during the Mississippi Period (A.D. 950–1541). Based on the archeological context for this site and what is presently known about the peoples who pre-date the historic Quapaw people and occupied the Clay Hill Site, the Denver Art Museum has determined the ceramic vessel listed in this notice is culturally affiliated with the Quapaw Nation. There are no known hazardous substances present on the object.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the information available about the associated funerary object described in this notice.

Determinations

The Denver Art Museum 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 object described in this notice and the Quapaw Nation.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the associated funerary object 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 object described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the Denver Art Museum must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the associated funerary object are considered a single request and not competing requests. The Denver Art 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13753 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7282; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043141; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sacramento, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Helen Lopez, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, email *helen.lopez@fire.ca.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 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 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 unassociated funerary objects are comprised of six pieces of lithic debitage, one bag of unquantified debitage, and one long stone. These cultural items were collected by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection during archaeological surveys and site investigations for projects during the 1980s and 1990s. The eight unassociated funerary objects originate from two sites in Sacramento County, California: CA–SAC–112 and CA–SAC–113. The eight unassociated funerary objects from CA–SAC–112 and CA–SAC–113 have been accessioned at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Sacramento Headquarters. Collections were treated with substances for labeling and identification and are unlikely to be potentially hazardous.

Determinations

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has determined that:

- The eight 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 connection between the cultural items described in this notice and the Ione Band of Miwok Indians of California and the Wilton Rancheria, 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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 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 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13746 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7276; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0043134; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: Antelope Valley College, Lancaster, CA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Antelope Valley College (AVC) 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 August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains in this notice to Dr. Darcy L. Wiewall, Antelope Valley College, Department of Anthropology, 3041 W Ave. K, Lancaster, CA 93536, email *darcy.wiewall@avc.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 AVC, 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. A total of eight human bones were recovered from the site. The Burnt Peak Pictograph (CA–LAN–484/AVC–2) site is in the foothills of the Sierra Pelona on the southwestern edge of the Antelope Valley in the western Mojave Desert, North Los Angeles County. The site was excavated by Roger W. Robinson, Instructor of Anthropology at Antelope Valley College in the fall of 1968 with volunteers from AVC. The site was temporarily recorded as AVC–2, later assigned the trinomial CA–LAN–484. All work performed by AVC was published in the article ''*Test Excavations at the Burnt Peak Pictograph Site (CA–LAN–484), Western Mojave Desert, California*'' by Mark Q. Sutton and Roger W. Robinson (2021). This is the only report published on the excavations.

The materials from the site were initially catalogued at AVC in 1968. The collection was then transferred to California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). During the 2004 cataloguing effort at CSUB, human remains were discovered in the collection. This discovery was immediately reported to the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office (letter dated November 4, 2004, sent by certified mail to Mr. Anthony T. Hernandez), and copied to Larry Myers of the Native American Heritage Commission. CSUB never received a response from either party. In 2021, the collection was returned to Antelope Valley College. Based on artifact typology and the absence of European material culture, it is suggested the human remains date to the Late Prehistoric Period Post-A.D. 900, but before European contact. No hazardous substances are known to have been used to treat any of the human remains.

Based on archaeological context and information learned from consultations, with representatives of the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (previously listed as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, California) and non-federally recognized California Tribes including the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and the San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, these individuals are Native American. Archaeologists have asserted that Serrano peoples have continuously occupied the San Gabriel Mountains and the surrounding areas for up to 5,000–6,000 years BP. Linguistic sources demonstrate a strong continuous shared group identity between those people and modern Native Americans of Serrano descent. Ethnographic evidence and Traditional Knowledge document the Palmdale region as home to Serrano peoples since time immemorial.

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. The following types of information were used to reasonably trace the relationship: anthropological information, archaeological information, geographical information, folkloric, historical, kinship, linguistic, oral traditional, and expert opinion, including Tribal Traditional Knowledge.

Determinations

AVC has determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of at least one individual of Native American ancestry.
- There is a reasonable connection between the human remains described in this notice and the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (previously listed as San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, California).

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 August 7, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, AVC 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. AVC 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: June 30, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

[FR Doc. 2026–13739 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4312–52–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[Docket No. BOEM–2025–0715]

Gulf of America Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas One Big Beautiful Bill Act Lease Sale 3

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Final notice of sale.

SUMMARY: On Wednesday, August 12, 2026, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will open and publicly announce bids received for blocks offered in the Gulf of America (GOA) Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas One Big Beautiful Bill Act Lease Sale 3 (Lease Sale BBG3). BOEM is holding this sale pursuant to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) and in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), as amended, and its implementing regulations. The Final Notice of Sale (NOS) package for Lease Sale BBG3 contains information essential to potential bidders and comprises this notice, Information to Lessees, and Lease Stipulations. Section 50102 of the OBBBA mandates that the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) conduct the sale within a specific time period and directs the Secretary to offer the same lease form, lease terms, economic conditions, and stipulations as contained in the Final Notice of Sale entitled, ''Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 254''.

DATES: BOEM will hold Lease Sale BBG3 at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2026. All times referred to in this document are Central time, unless otherwise specified.

Bid submission deadline: BOEM must receive all sealed bids prior to the bid submission deadline of 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, the day before the lease sale. For more information on bid submission, see Section VII of this document, ''Bidding Instructions.''

ADDRESSES: Bids will be accepted, prior to the bid submission deadline, through any parcel delivery service (*e.g.,* FedEx, UPS, U.S. Postal Service, DHL) or in person at 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123. Public bid reading for Lease Sale BBG3 will be held at The National WWII Museum, 1043 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. The venue will not be open to the general public, but limited seating will be available for Lease Sale BBG3 bidders only. Bid opening will be available for public viewing on BOEM's website at *https://www.boem.gov/Sale-BBG3* via live-streaming video beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the date of the sale. The results will be posted on BOEM's website upon completion of bid opening and reading. Interested parties may download the Final NOS package from BOEM's website at *https://www.boem.gov/Sale-BBG3*. Copies of the sale maps can be obtained by contacting the BOEM GOA Region: Gulf of America Region Public Affairs Office, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394, (504) 650–7060.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Idrissa Boube, Gulf of America Region Lease Sale Coordinator, at *BOEMGulfLeaseSales@boem.gov* or 504–731–1531. For sale day inquiries, please call Idrissa Boube at 504–731–1531.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: This sale is being held pursuant to the requirements of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Pub. L. 119–21). This Final Notice of Sale is published pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*) and 30 CFR 556.308(a). Following President Trump's Executive Order 14172, ''Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness,'' (January 20, 2025), the Gulf of Mexico has been renamed to the Gulf of America. Any references to ''Gulf of Mexico'' herein are solely retained due to official titles of statutes, treaties, agreements or publications.

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I. Lease Sale Area

Blocks Offered for Leasing: BOEM will offer for bid in this lease sale all available unleased acreage in the GOA OCS as identified on the map, ''Final Oil and Gas Sale Area for Sale BBG3'' (*https://www.boem.gov/Sale-BBG3*), except those blocks listed below in ''Blocks Not Offered for Leasing.'' Any lease blocks in an official relinquished, expired, or terminated status at least 30 calendar days prior to publication of the Final Notice of Sale in the **Federal Register**, and any lease blocks whose high bids were rejected and not appealed in the immediately preceding Big Beautiful Gulf lease sale, are expected to be included as eligible for lease.

Blocks Not Offered for Leasing: BOEM will exclude the following whole and partial blocks from this sale. The BOEM Official Protraction Diagrams (OPDs) and Supplemental OPDs are available online at *https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/mapping-and-data.*

- Whole and Partial Blocks withdrawn from leasing by Presidential Withdrawal in the September 8, 2020, *Memorandum on the Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition:*

TABLE 1—OCS BLOCKS WITHDRAWN FROM LEASING PURSUANT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

GOA protraction areas	OCS block
Pensacola (Leasing Map NH 16–05)	*Whole Blocks:* 751–754, 793–798, 837–842, 881–886, 925–930, 969–975.
Destin Dome (Leasing Map NH 16–08)	*Whole Blocks:* 1–7, 45–51, 89–96, 133–140, 177–184, 221–228, 265–273, 309–317, 353–361, 397–405, 441–450, 485–494, 529–538, 573–582, 617–627, 661–671, 705–715, 749–759, 793–804, 837–848, 881–892, 925–936, 969–981.

TABLE 1—OCS BLOCKS WITHDRAWN FROM LEASING PURSUANT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2020—Continued

GOA protraction areas	OCS block
DeSoto Canyon (Leasing Map NH 16–11)	*Whole Blocks:* 1–15, 45–59, 92–102. *Partial Blocks:* 16, 60, 61, 89–91, 103–105, 135–147.
Henderson (Leasing Map NG 16–05)	*Partial Blocks:* 114, 158, 202, 246, 290, 334, 335, 378, 379, 422, 423.

• Whole and Partial Blocks within the boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (East and West Flower Garden Banks and the Stetson Bank) as of the July 14, 2008, *Memorandum on Modification of the Withdrawal of Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition:*

TABLE 2—OCS BLOCKS WITHDRAWN FROM LEASING IN THE FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

GOA protraction areas	OCS block
High Island, East Addition, South Extension (Leasing Map TX7C).	*Whole Block:* A–398. *Partial Blocks:* A–366, A–367, A–374, A–375, A–383, A–384, A–385, A–388, A–389, A–397, A–399, A–401.
High Island, South Addition (Leasing Map TX7B).	*Partial Blocks:* A–502, A–513.
Garden Banks (Leasing Map NG 15–02)	*Partial Blocks:* 134, 135.

• Whole and Partial Blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the United States Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap:

TABLE 3—OCS BLOCKS NOT OFFERED FOR LEASING ADJACENT TO OR BEYOND THE UNITED STATES EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

GOA protraction areas	OCS block
Lund South (Leasing Map NG 16–07)	*Whole Blocks:* 128, 129, 169–173, 208–217, 248–261, 293–305, 349.
Henderson (Leasing Map NG 16–05)	*Whole Blocks:* 466, 508–510, 551–554, 594–599, 637–643, 679–687, 722–731, 764–775, 807–819, 849–862, 891–905, 933–949, 975–992. *Partial Blocks:* 335, 379, 423, 467, 511, 555, 556, 600, 644, 688, 732, 776, 777, 820, 821, 863, 864, 906, 907, 950, 993, 994.
Florida Plain (Leasing Map NG 16–08)	*Whole Blocks:* 5–24, 46–67, 89–110, 133–154, 177–197, 221–240, 265–283, 309–327, 363–370.

• Depth-restricted, segregated block portion(s). The current block meeting this criterion is:

Block 299, Main Pass Area, South and East Addition (as shown on Louisiana Leasing Map LA10A), containing 1,125 acres from the surface of the earth down to a subsea depth of 1,900 feet with respect to the following described portions: SW¼NE¼; NW¼SE¼NE¼; W½NE¼SE¼NE¼; S½S½NW¼NE¼; S½SW¼NE¼NE¼; S½SW¼SE¼NE¼NE¼; N½SW¼SE¼NE¼; SW¼SW¼SE¼NE¼; NW¼SE¼SE¼ NE¼; N½NW¼SW¼SE¼SE¼NE¼; N½SE¼SW¼SE¼NE¼; N½S½SE¼SW¼SE¼NE¼; S½NE¼NW¼; S½S½N½NE¼NW¼; N½SE¼NW¼;S½SE¼NW¼NW¼; NE¼SE¼ NW¼NW¼; E½NE¼SW¼NW¼; N½SE¼SE¼NW¼; NE¼SW¼SE¼NW¼; N½NW¼SW¼SE¼NW¼; SE¼SE¼SE¼NW¼; E½SW¼SE¼SE¼NW¼; N½NW¼NE¼SW¼NW¼; N½S½NW¼NE¼SW¼NW¼; N½N½NE¼NE¼NE¼SW¼; N½N½N½NW¼NW¼SE¼; N½N½NW¼NE¼NW¼SE¼.

• Any blocks in which the status of existing leases are under appeal.

The final list of blocks available for bid will be posted on BOEM's website at *https://www.boem.gov/Sale-BBG3.*

II. Statutes and Regulations

Each lease is issued pursuant to the OBBBA and OCSLA, 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.,* as amended, and is subject to OCSLA implementing regulations promulgated pursuant thereto in 30 CFR part 556, and other applicable statutes and regulations in existence upon the effective date of the lease, as well as those applicable statutes enacted and regulations promulgated thereafter, except to the extent that the after-enacted statutes and regulations explicitly conflict with an express provision of the lease. Each lease is subject to amendments to statutes and regulations, including but not limited to OCSLA, that do not explicitly conflict with an express provision of the lease. The lessee expressly bears the risk that such new or amended statutes and regulations (*i.e.,* those that do not explicitly conflict with an express provision of the lease) may increase or decrease the lessee's obligations under the lease. BOEM reserves the right to reject any and all bids received, regardless of the amount offered (see 30 CFR 556.516).

The OBBBA was signed into law on July 4, 2025, and contains statutory requirements to conduct lease sales in the Gulf of America with specific parameters and timing requirements. Section 50102(a)(1) of the OBBBA requires the Secretary to conduct a minimum of 30 offshore lease sales in the Gulf of America Region through 2040, notwithstanding the 2024–2029 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas

Leasing Program (or any successor leasing program that does not satisfy the requirements of the OBBBA). This lease sale constitutes the third lease sale required by OBBBA in the Gulf of America. The statute directs the Secretary to hold at least two lease sales in each calendar year from 2026 through 2039 (by March 15 and August 15 of each applicable year), and at least one sale by March 15, 2040. The statute further requires specific Terms and Stipulations that must be used for these sales, stating that the Secretary must ''offer the same lease form, lease terms, economic conditions, and stipulations 4 through 9 as contained in the Final Notice of Sale of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management entitled for the 'Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 254' (85 FR 8010 (February 12, 2020)).''

Additionally, the OBBBA requires the Secretary to set royalty rates at not less than 12½ percent and not more than 16⅔ percent; establishes a 10-year primary term for deepwater GOA leases; requires not fewer than 80 million acres to be offered, or all available unleased acres if less than 80 million acres are available; and increases the amount of revenue sharing pursuant to the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA, Pub. L. 109–432) from $500 million to $650 million through 2034. The annual GOMESA revenue sharing caps continue thereafter at $500 million per year through 2055, after which there will be no caps on GOMESA revenue sharing.

III. Lease Terms and Economic Conditions

BOEM will offer leases that include certain terms and conditions to ensure compliance with the requirements of the OBBBA.

OCS Lease Form

Pursuant to Section 50102(b)(1)(A) of the OBBBA, BOEM will use Form BOEM–2005 (February 2017) to convey leases resulting from this sale. This lease form can be viewed on BOEM's website at *http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-2005.* The lease form will be amended to include specific terms, conditions, and stipulations applicable to the individual lease. The final terms, conditions, and stipulations applicable to this sale are below.

Primary Terms

Section 50102(b)(1)(A) of the OBBBA requires that the primary term for leases in water depths less than 800 meters to be the same as those in Lease Sale 254. Additionally, Section 50102(b)(1)(D) requires a primary term of 10 years for leases offered in water depths 800 meters or deeper. The primary terms for this sale are summarized in the following table:

TABLE 4—PRIMARY TERMS

Water depth (meters)	Primary term
0 to <400	The primary term is 5 years; the lessee may earn an additional 3 years (*i.e.,* for an 8-year extended primary term) if a well is spudded targeting hydrocarbons below 25,000 feet True Vertical Depth Subsea (TVDSS) during the first 5 years of the lease.
400 to <800	The primary term is 5 years; the lessee will earn an additional 3 years (*i.e.,* for an 8-year extended primary term) if a well is spudded during the first 5 years of the lease.
800 + ...	10 years.

1. The primary term for a lease in water depths of less than 400 meters is 5 years. If the lessee spuds a well targeting hydrocarbons below 25,000 feet TVDSS within the first 5 years of the lease, then the lessee may earn an additional 3 years, resulting in an 8-year primary term. The lessee will earn the 8-year primary term when the well is drilled to a target below 25,000 feet TVDSS; or the lessee may earn the 8-year primary term in cases where the well targets, but does not reach, a depth below 25,000 feet TVDSS due to mechanical or safety reasons that are beyond the lessee's control, and that are supported by sufficient evidence from the lessee. To earn the 8-year primary term, the lessee is required to submit a letter to the BOEM GOA Regional Supervisor, Office of Leasing and Plans, as soon as practicable, but no more than 30 days after completion of the drilling operation, providing the well number, spud date, information demonstrating a target below 25,000 feet TVDSS and whether that target was reached, and if applicable, any safety or mechanical reasons encountered that prevented the well from reaching a depth below 25,000 feet TVDSS. In the letter, the lessee must request confirmation from BOEM that the lessee earned the 8-year primary term. The BOEM GOA Regional Supervisor for Leasing and Plans will confirm in writing, within 30 days of receiving the lessee's letter, whether the lessee has earned the extended primary term and accordingly update BOEM's records. The extended primary term is not effective unless and until the lessee receives confirmation from BOEM. A lessee that has earned the 8-year primary term by spudding a well with a hydrocarbon target below 25,000 feet TVDSS during the standard 5-year primary term of the lease will not be granted a suspension for that same period under the regulations at 30 CFR 250.175 because the lease is not at risk of expiring.

2. The primary term for a lease in water depths ranging from 400 meters to less than 800 meters is 5 years. If the lessee spuds a well within the first 5 years of the lease, the lessee will earn an additional 3 years, resulting in an 8-year primary term. To earn the 8-year primary term, the lessee is required to submit a letter to the BOEM GOA Regional Supervisor, Office of Leasing and Plans, as soon as practicable, but no more than 30 days after spudding a well, providing the well number and spud date, and requesting confirmation from BOEM that the lessee earned the 8-year extended primary term. Within 30 days of receipt of the request, the BOEM GOA Regional Supervisor for Leasing and Plans will provide written confirmation of whether the lessee has earned the extended primary term and accordingly update BOEM's records. The extended primary term is not effective unless and until the lessee receives confirmation from BOEM.

3. The primary term for a lease in water depths 800 meters or deeper is 10 years.

Minimum Bonus Bid Amounts

Pursuant to Section 50102(b)(1)(A) of the OBBBA, the minimum bonus bids are the same as those used in Lease Sale 254. BOEM will not accept a bonus bid unless it provides for a cash bonus in an amount equal to or exceeding the specified minimum bid, as described below.

• $25 per acre or fraction thereof for blocks in water depths less than 400 meters; and
• $100 per acre or fraction thereof for blocks in water depths 400 meters or deeper.

Rental Rates

Pursuant to Section 50102(b)(1)(A) of the OBBBA, rental rates are the same as those used in Lease Sale 254. Annual rental rates, per acre or fraction thereof, are summarized in the following table:

TABLE 5—RENTAL RATES PER ACRE OR FRACTION THEREOF

Water depth (meters)	Years 1–5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8+
0 to <200	$7	$14	$21	$28
200 to <400	11	22	33	44
400+	11	16	16	16

Escalating Rental Rates for Leases With an 8-Year Primary Term in Water Depths Less Than 400 Meters

Any lessee with a lease in less than 400 meters water depth who earns an 8-year primary term will pay an escalating rental rate as shown above. The rental rates after the fifth year for blocks in less than 400 meters water depth will become fixed and no longer escalate if another well is spudded targeting hydrocarbons below 25,000 feet TVDSS after the fifth year of the lease, and BOEM concurs that such a well has been spudded. In this case, the rental rate will become fixed at the rental rate in effect during the lease year in which the additional well was spudded.

Minimum Royalty Rate

Pursuant to Section 50102(b)(1)(A) of the OBBBA, the minimum royalty rates are the same as those used in Lease Sale 254:

• $7.00 per acre or fraction thereof per year for blocks in water depths less than 200 meters; and
• $11.00 per acre or fraction thereof per year for blocks in water depths 200 meters or deeper.

Royalty Rate

The royalty rate is the minimum allowed by Section 50102(b)(1)(C) of the OBBBA:

• 12½ percent for blocks in all water depths.

Royalty Suspension Provisions

Pursuant to Section 50102(b)(1)(A) of the OBBBA, the royalty suspensions offered in this sale are the same as those offered in Lease Sale 254. The Department may issue leases with Royalty Suspension Volumes (RSVs) under 30 CFR part 560, which BOEM administers. The specific details relating to eligibility and implementation of RSVs and other royalty relief programs are found at 30 CFR part 203, which the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement administers.

Royalty Suspension Volumes on Gas Production From Ultra-Deep Wells

Pursuant to 30 CFR part 203, certain leases issued because of this sale may be eligible for RSV incentives on gas produced from ultra-deep wells. Under this program, wells on leases in less than 400 meters water depth and completed to a drilling depth of 20,000 feet TVDSS or deeper receive an RSV of 35 billion cubic feet on the production of natural gas. This RSV incentive is subject to applicable price thresholds set forth in the regulations at 30 CFR part 203. These regulations implement the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109–58, 119 Stat. 594 (2005)).

IV. Lease Stipulations

Pursuant to Section 50102 (b)(1)(A) of the OBBBA, BOEM must use the same lease stipulations 4 through 9 that were provided in the Lease Sale 254 Final NOS. BOEM has updated Stipulations 1, 2, 3, and 10, where applicable, to reflect current conditions in the GOA.

One or more of the stipulations below may be applied to leases issued in this sale. The applicable blocks for each stipulation are identified on the map entitled, ''Final Gulf of America Oil and Gas Lease Sale BBG3, August 2026, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks,'' which is included in the Final NOS package. The full text of the following stipulations is contained in the ''Lease Stipulations'' section of the Final NOS package. BOEM has posted the final list of blocks available for bid and the applicable stipulations that apply to those blocks on its website at *https://www.boem.gov/Sale-BBG3* under the Final NOS tab.

1. Military Areas
2. Evacuation
3. Coordination
4. Protected Species
5. Topographic Features
6. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea Royalty Payment
7. Agreement between the United States and Mexico Concerning Transboundary Hydrocarbon Reservoirs
8. Live Bottom
9. Blocks South of Baldwin County, Alabama
10. Restrictions due to Rights-of-Use and Easement for Floating Production Facilities

V. Information to Lessees

Information to Lessees (ITLs) provide detailed information on certain issues pertaining to specific oil and gas lease sales. The full text of the ITLs for this sale is contained in the ''Information to Lessees'' section of the Final NOS package and covers the following topics:

1. Navigation Safety
2. Ordnance Disposal Areas
3. Existing and Proposed Artificial Reefs/Rigs-to-Reefs
4. Lightering Zones
5. Indicated Hydrocarbons List
6. Military Areas
7. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Inspection and Enforcement of Certain U.S. Coast Guard Regulations
8. Significant Outer Continental Shelf Sediment Resource Areas
9. Notice of Arrival on the Outer Continental Shelf
10. Bidder/Lessee Notice of Obligations Related to Criminal/Civil Charges and Offenses, Suspension, or Debarment; Disqualification Due to a Conviction under the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act
11. Protected Species
12. Expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
13. Communication Towers
14. Deepwater Port Applications for Offshore Oil and Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities
15. Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites
16. Rights-of-Use and Easement
17. Industrial Waste Disposal Areas
18. Gulf Islands National Seashore

19. Air Quality Permit/Plan Approvals
20. Provisions Pertaining to Certain Transactions by Foreign Persons Involving Real Estate in the United States

VI. Maps

The maps pertaining to this lease sale can be viewed on BOEM's website at *https://www.boem.gov/Sale-BBG3.* The following maps also are included in the Final NOS package:

Sale Area Map

The sale area is shown on the map entitled, ''Final Oil and Gas Sale Area for Sale BBG3.''

Lease Terms and Economic Conditions Map

The lease terms and economic conditions associated with leases of certain blocks are shown on the map entitled, ''Final Gulf of America Oil and Gas Lease Sale BBG3, August 2026, Lease Terms and Economic Conditions.''

Stipulations and Deferred Blocks Map

The lease stipulations and the blocks to which they apply are shown on the map entitled, ''Final Gulf of America Oil and Gas Lease Sale BBG3, August 2026, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks.''

VII. Bidding Instructions

Prior to the bid submission deadline, bids may be submitted through any parcel delivery service (*e.g.,* FedEx, UPS, U.S. Postal Service, DHL) or in-person at the address listed in the ''Mailed Bid Submission'' section. Business hours for in-person bid submission are Monday, August 10th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday, August 11th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Instructions on how to submit a bid, secure payment of the advance bonus bid deposit (if applicable), and the information to be included with the bid are as follows:

Bid Form

For each block bid upon, a separate sealed bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope (as described below) and include the following items:

- Total amount of the bid in whole dollars only;
- Sale number;
- Sale date;
- Each bidder's exact name;
- Each bidder's proportionate interest, stated as a percentage, using a maximum of five decimal places (*e.g.,* 33.33333 percent);
- Typed name and title, and signature of each bidder's authorized officer. Electronic signatures are acceptable. The typed name, title, and signature must agree exactly with the name and title on file in the BOEM Gulf of America OCS Region Adjudication Section;
- Each bidder's BOEM qualification number;
- Map name and number or OPD name and number;
- Block number; and
- Statement acknowledging that the bidder(s) understands that this bid legally binds the bidder(s) to comply with all applicable regulations, including the requirement to post a deposit in the amount of one-fifth of the bonus bid amount for any tract bid upon and make payment of the balance of the bonus bid and first year's rental upon BOEM's acceptance of high bids.

The information required for each bid is specified in the document ''Bid Form'' that is available in the Final NOS package, which can be found at *https://www.boem.gov/Sale-BBG3.* A blank bid form is provided in the Final NOS package for convenience and can be copied and completed with the necessary information described above.

Bid Envelope

Each bid must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope labeled as follows:

- ''Sealed Bid for GOA Region-wide Sale BBG3, not to be opened until 9 a.m. Wednesday, August 12, 2026'';
- Map name and number or OPD name and number;
- Block number for block bid upon;
- Acreage, if the bid is for a block that is split between the Central and Eastern Planning Areas; and
- The exact name and qualification number of the submitting bidder only.

The Final NOS package includes a sample bid envelope for reference.

Mailed Bid Submission

Please address the envelope containing the sealed bid envelope(s) as follows:

Attention: Leasing and Financial Responsibility Section, BOEM New Orleans Office, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard MS–266A, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394, Contains Sealed Bids for Lease Sale BBG3, Please deliver to Mr. Idrissa Boube or Mrs. Karoline DiPerna, 2nd Floor, immediately.

Please Note: Bidders are advised to inform BOEM by email at *BOEMGulfLeaseSalesAttendance@boem.gov* immediately after placing bid(s) in the mail. This provides advance notice to BOEM regarding pending bids before the bid submission deadline. In the email, please state the tracking number of the bid package, the number of bids being submitted, and the email address of the person who should receive the bid receipt for signature. If BOEM receives bids later than the bid submission deadline, the BOEM GOA Regional Director (RD) will return those bids unopened to bidders. Please see Section XI, ''Delay of Sale,'' regarding BOEM's discretion to extend the bid submission deadline in the case of an unexpected event (*e.g.,* flooding) and how bidders can obtain more information on such extensions.

In-Person Bid Submission and/or In-Person Bid Reading

Bidders *must* advise BOEM via email at *BOEMGulfLeaseSalesAttendance@boem.gov* no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 28, 2026, if the intention is to participate in Lease Sale BBG3 in person for bid submission, bid reading, or both. BOEM will promptly respond to the email with additional instructions for gaining security clearance to attend bid submission and/or bid reading in-person. Bidders who do not notify BOEM and gain clearance to attend in advance will not be granted access to the venue and will be instructed to mail in bids, which must arrive prior to the bid submission deadline.

Advance Bonus Bid Deposit Guarantee

Bidders who are not currently an OCS oil and gas lease record title holder or designated operator, or those who have ever defaulted on a one-fifth bonus bid deposit, must guarantee (secure) the payment of the one-fifth bonus bid deposit, by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or otherwise, *before* bid submission using one of the following four methods:

- Provide a third-party guarantee;
- Amend a development stage area-wide bond via bond rider;
- Provide a letter of credit; or
- Provide a lump sum payment in advance via EFT.

Please provide, at the time of bid submittal, a confirmation or tracking number for the payment, the name of the company submitting the payment as it appears on the payment, and the date the payment was submitted so that BOEM can confirm payment with the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR). Bidders should submit payments to their financial institution at least 5 business days prior to bid submittal to ensure that the Office of Foreign Assets Control and the U.S. Department of the Treasury (U.S. Treasury) have time to screen and process payments and that payments are posted to ONRR prior to placing the bid. ONRR cannot confirm payment until the

monies have been moved into settlement status by the U.S. Treasury. Bids will not be accepted if BOEM cannot confirm payment with ONRR before 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

If providing a third-party guarantee, amending a development stage area-wide bond via bond rider, or providing a letter of credit to secure your one-fifth bonus bid deposit, bidders are urged to file these documents with BOEM well in advance of submitting the bid. This allows processing time and ensures bidders have time to take any necessary curative actions prior to bid submission. For more information on EFT procedures, see Section X, ''The Lease Sale.''

Geophysical Data and Information Statement (GDIS)

The GDIS is composed of five parts:

1. A ''Statement'' page that includes the company representatives' information and separate lists of blocks bid on that used proprietary data and those blocks bid upon that did not use proprietary data;
2. A ''Table'' listing the required data about each proprietary survey used (see below);
3. A ''Survey Parameter Worksheet'' listing acquisition geometry, frequency range, fold coverage and processing methods for each survey (see below);
4. ''Maps,'' which contain the live trace maps for each proprietary survey and fast-track survey that are identified in the GDIS statement and table; and
5. ''Proprietary geophysical and fast-track SEGY'', not submitted previously to BOEM, needs to be submitted along with the GDIS.

Any bidder who used proprietary seismic data not previously submitted to BOEM to evaluate a block in Lease Sale BBG3—or who is a joint bidder on such a bid—must submit all five parts of the GDIS at the time of bid submission. If only speculative seismic data was used, the bidder must submit the GDIS Form and GDIS Table listing all speculative data used for each block. A bidder must submit the GDIS *even if a joint bidder or bidders on a specific block also have submitted a GDIS.* Any speculative data that has been reprocessed externally or ''in-house'' is considered proprietary due to the proprietary processing and is no longer considered to be speculative.

The bidder and joint bidder must submit the GDIS in a separate and sealed envelope and must identify all proprietary data; reprocessed speculative data, and/or any Controlled Source Electromagnetic surveys, Amplitude Versus Offset (AVO) data, gravity data, and/or magnetic data; or other data or information used as part of the decision to bid or participate in a bid on the block.

The bidder and joint bidder must also include a live trace map (*e.g.,* .pdf and ArcGIS shapefile) for each proprietary and fast-track survey identified in the GDIS illustrating the actual areal extent of the proprietary geophysical and fast-track data in the survey (see the ''Example of Preferred Format'' that is included in the Final NOS package for additional information). The shape file must not include cultural resources information; only the live trace map of the survey itself.

The GDIS statement must include the name, phone number, and full address for a contact person and an alternate, who are both knowledgeable about the geophysical information and data listed and who are available for 30 days after the sale date. The GDIS statement must also include a list of all blocks bid upon, including those blocks where no proprietary or reprocessed geophysical data and/or proprietary information was used, as a basis for the bidder's decision to bid or to participate as a joint bidder in the bid. All bidders must submit the GDIS statement even if no proprietary geophysical data or information was used in its bid preparation for the block.

Examples of the preferred format of the table and parameter worksheet are included in the Final NOS package, and a blank digital version of the preferred table and Survey Parameter Worksheet can be accessed on the Lease Sale BBG3 website at *https://www.boem.gov/Sale-BBG3.* The GDIS table should have columns that clearly state the following:

- The sale number;
- The bidder's company name;
- The joint bidder's company name (if applicable);
- The company providing proprietary data to BOEM;
- The block area and block number bid upon;
- The owner of the original data set (*i.e.,* who initially acquired the data);
- The industry's original name of the survey (*e.g.,* E Octopus);
- The BOEM permit number for the survey;
- Whether the data set is a fast-track version; BOEM will request all fast-track data;
- Whether the data is speculative or proprietary;
- The data type (*e.g.,* 2–D, 3–D, or 4–D; pre-stack or post-stack; time or depth);
- The migration algorithm (*e.g.,* Kirchhoff migration, wave equation migration, reverse migration, reverse time migration) of the data and areal extent of bidder survey (*i.e.,* number of line miles for 2–D or number of blocks for 3–D);
- The live proprietary survey coverage (2–D miles 3–D blocks);
- The computer storage size, to the nearest gigabyte, of each seismic data and velocity volume used to evaluate the lease block;
- Who reprocessed the data;
- The date on which the final reprocessing was completed (month and year);
- If the data was previously sent to BOEM, list the sale number and date of the sale for which it was used;
- Whether proprietary or speculative AVO/AVA (PROP/SPEC) was used;
- The date on which the AVO or AVA was sent to BOEM, if it was sent before the sale;
- Whether AVO/AVA is time or depth (PSTM or PSDM);
- Which angled stacks were used (*e.g.,* NEAR, MID, FAR, ULTRAFAR);
- Whether the company used Gathers to evaluate the block in question; and
- List of other Geophysical Data methods used to evaluate the bid block (*e.g.,* Inversion, Modeling, Illumination, Grav, Mag).

BOEM will use the computer storage size information to estimate the reproduction costs for each data set, if applicable. BOEM will determine the availability of reimbursement of production costs consistent with 30 CFR 551.13.

BOEM reserves the right to inquire about alternate data sets, perform quality checks, and compare the listed and alternative data sets to determine which data set most closely meets the needs of the fair market value determination process. See the ''Example of Preferred Format'' that is included in the Final NOS package.

Survey Parameter Worksheet

The BOEM GOA Region now requires bidders to submit a completed electronic version of the Survey Parameters Worksheet alongside any Seismic Survey submittal.

This worksheet plays a critical role in supporting BOEM's Fair Market Value (FMV) Evaluation Methodology, which is used to assess the economic value of leases offered in OCS lease sales. The data provided in the worksheet allows BOEM to better understand the technical scope and intent behind each seismic survey, and how those data contribute to subsurface interpretation and prospectivity analysis.

By supplying detailed parameters—such as acquisition geometry, frequency range, fold coverage, and processing methods—bidders provide BOEM with the context necessary to:

- Qualitatively assess the degree of geological understanding obtained from the survey;
- Evaluate the quality and resolution of seismic imaging, which can directly influence the identification of leads and prospects;
- Determine the likelihood of successful hydrocarbon identification, by considering how the data may mitigate or highlight geological risks;
- Identify geophysical phenomena (*e.g.,* amplitude anomalies, velocity pull-ups, multiples) that could impact the interpretation and chance of success;
- Assess the commercial implications of the survey in supporting new play concepts or de-risking known trends.

Ultimately, the inclusion of this worksheet enhances the transparency and technical rigor behind BOEM's FMV assessments. It ensures that economic evaluations are informed by the best available subsurface data and geological interpretations, helping to safeguard the public interest in OCS resource development.

Bidders are encouraged to complete the worksheet with care and accuracy, as it will directly inform BOEM's ability to fairly and accurately evaluate lease block value based on current geoscientific insight.

Glossary of Terms in order the terms appear in the Seismic Parameter Worksheet:

- BOEM Project Name: Please do not fill out. This element is for internal BOEM purposes.
- Seismic Vendor: List the company who shot the survey.
- Industry Survey Name: List the name of the original survey.
- Speculative or Proprietary: Speculative is data that is available for purchase from a vendor for anyone; the original data ''right out of the box.'' Proprietary is any data that was acquired by an Exploration & Production Company or Speculative Data that has become proprietary through reprocessing. Any speculative data such as 2–D or 3–D, pre-stack or post-stack, time or depth, amplitude with offset (AVO), inversion, CSEM, gravity and magnetic data that has been modified or changed from its original processing would be considered proprietary due to the proprietary processing.
- 2D/3D/4D: List the acquisition type.
- Time/Depth: List the survey domain.
- Acquisition Company (if different from Vendor): The Field Acquisition Company could be different from the Final Processed Survey Vendor.
- Acquisition Project Name (if different from Final Processed Industry Survey Name): Acquisition Project Name could be different than Final Processed Survey Name especially when Merging Shoots and/or Reprocessing.
- Acquisition Date: List the date the field acquisition was complete.
- Maximum Offset (Inline/Crossline)/(X/Y): Maximum distance between source and receiver. Offset can be different in Inline and Crossline direction.
- Streamer or Ocean Bottom Nodes (OBN): Examples are marine towed streamer, seafloor cable, or seafloor nodes.
- Streamer depth: Depth of streamer below the water.
- Streamer configuration (example: Multistreamer: ten 8,000m cables or 1,000 seafloor nodes): Description of receivers including how many cables and length of each.
- Hydrophone type (2D (P wave), 2D (P+S wave), 3D (P Wave), 3D (P+S, Multicomponent)): Describe the richness of the hydrophones.
- Receiver Group Interval (DGF) (meters): The distance between two consecutive receivers located on the same receiver line.
- Azimuth Distribution (NAZ, MAZ, WAZ, RAZ, FAZ): List the quality of the azimuth distribution in the survey.
- Azimuth Orientation (either degree or cardinal direction): List the direction of the acquisition; example (N/S and W/E or 0/180 and 90/270).
- Energy Source (# sources, # source vessels, cubic inches per array): Describe the source array and source vessel.
- Source Depth: Depth the source array is towed below the sea-surface.
- Shot Interval: Time between shots. Could also be recorded as distance between shots.
- Sample Rate (ms): Time between vertical trace samples.
- Record Length: Total time of seismic shot record. (Number of samples per trace) x (sample rate).
- Recorded bin dimensions (Example: 6.25 x 60m): The recorded grid dimensions in Inline and Crossline.
- Fold: The number of traces, or midpoints, withing each CMP bin. Multiplicity of the CMP data.
- Seismic Processing Vendor: Company that completed the final processing for the survey.
- Processing Completed Year: Year the processing was completed.
- Migration/Processing Type: Examples are Post-Stack Time, Post-Stack Depth, Pre-Stack Time, and Pre-Stack Depth. Please list all that apply.
- Processed Bin Size (specify either feet or meters, *e.g.,* 25m x 30m): Bin size of the final processed product.
- Migration algorithm(s): Migration types include: Kirchoff, Beam, WEM, RTM, LSRTM, FWI, or other. Please list all Migrations submitted with survey.
- Velocity Build: (Salt, Salt + Wells, Acoustic FWI, Elastic FWI). List the highest complexity of data involved with building the velocity model.
- Illumination Study Type & Reliability (None, highly suspect, reasonable reliability, Full 3D wavefield). List the quality of the Illumination Study.
- Velocity Anisotropy Used? Type? (HTI, VTI, TTI, other, none). List the type of anisotropy used in the velocity.
- For Sub-Stack Volumes, list class and offset or angle range per volume. (Example, Mid Offset Range: 5000′–7000′ or Mid Angle Range: 24deg–30deg). Use a separate line for each sub-stack volume. Include the angle or offset range.
- Controlled Source Electro-Magnetic (CSEM) Source Type (HED–Horizontal Dipole or VED–Vertical Dipole): Type of CSEM Source.
- CSEM Receiver Type (Seabed Nodes or Surface Towed Receiver): Type of receiver.
- Inversion Year: Year the inversion was completed.
- Receiver Spacing: Spacing between receiver/nodes.
- Source Line Spacing: Spacing between source lines.
- Inversion Type (1D, 2D, 3D): Geometry/Complexity of the Inversion.
- Inversion Type (Isotropic or Anisotropic): List if Inversion was Isotropic or Anisotropic.
- TTI (Tilted Transverse Isotropy) performed (yes, no, unknown). If TTI applied, indicate Yes or No.
- Is Inversion Speculative or Proprietary (Prospect Specific)? Is the Inversion speculative or proprietary?

The GDIS maps are live trace maps (*e.g.,* .pdf and ArcGIS shapefiles) that bidders should submit for each proprietary survey identified in the GDIS table. The maps should illustrate the actual areal extent of the proprietary geophysical data in the survey (see the ''Example of Preferred Format'' that is included in the Final NOS package for additional information). As previously stated, the shapefile must not include cultural resources information, only the live trace map of the survey itself.

Pursuant to 30 CFR 551.12 and 556.501, as a condition of the sale, the BOEM GOA RD requests that all bidders and joint bidders submit the proprietary data and fast-track data identified on their GDIS along with their bid and GDIS packet.

This includes any proprietary data or fast-track data that has not been provided previously to BOEM. Commercially available speculative data should not be submitted to BOEM unless specifically requested by BOEM. If the bidder is not sure whether the data has been provided previously, the bidder should send the proprietary or fast-track. BOEM requires all data that are considered proprietary and fast-track to be submitted for the evaluation of the bid blocks.

The proprietary and fast-track data must be submitted to BOEM at the following address: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Resource Studies, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard MS–266A, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123–2394. Please deliver to Mr. Idrissa Boube or Mrs. Karoline DiPerna, 2nd Floor, immediately.

BOEM recommends that bidders mark the submission's external envelope as ''Deliver Immediately to DASPU.'' BOEM also recommends that bidders submit the GDIS data and Survey Parameter Worksheet in an internal envelope, or otherwise marked, with the following designation: ''Geophysical Data and Information Statement for Oil and Gas Lease Sale BBG3, Company Name, GOA Company Qualification Number, and ''Proprietary Data.''

In the event a person supplies any type of data to BOEM, that person must meet the following requirements to qualify for reimbursement:

1. Must be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), formerly known as the Central Contractor Registration (CCR). CCR usernames will not work in SAM. A new SAM user account is needed to register or update an entity's records. The website for registering is *SAM.gov.*

2. Must be enrolled in the U.S. Treasury's Invoice Processing Platform (IPP) for electronic invoicing; to enroll go to *https://www.ipp.gov/.* Access then will be granted to use the IPP for submitting requests for payment. When submitting a request for payment, the assigned Purchase Order Number must be included.

3. Must have a current Online Representations and Certifications Application at *SAM.gov.*

Please Note: Digital copies and duplicate hardcopies should be submitted for the GDIS Statement, Parameter Sheet, table, shapefiles, and maps. The GDIS Statement should be sent in as a digital PDF. The GDIS Information Table must be submitted digitally as an Excel spreadsheet. The proprietary data and fast-track data maps should be sent in as PDF files and the live trace outline of each proprietary survey and fast-track survey should also be submitted as a shapefile. Please flatten all layered PDF files, since layered PDFs can have many objects. Layered PDFs can cause problems opening or printing the file correctly. Bidders may submit the digital files on a USB external drive (formatted for Windows). Proprietary surveys and fast-track surveys should be sent in as regular SEGY files. If bidders have any questions, please contact Ms. Dee Smith at (504) 736–2706, or Ms. Teree Campbell at (504) 736–3231.

Bidders should refer to the ''Acceptance, Rejection, or Return of Bids'' heading under Section X, ''The Lease Sale,'' regarding a bidder's failure to comply with the requirements of the Final NOS, including any failure to submit information required in the Final NOS package.

Telephone Numbers/Addresses of Bidders

BOEM requests that bidders provide this information in the suggested format prior to or at the time of bid submission. The suggested format is included in the Final NOS package. The form must not be enclosed inside the sealed bid envelope.

Additional Documentation

BOEM may require bidders to submit other documents in accordance with 30 CFR 556.107, 556.401, 556.501, and 556.513.

VIII. Bidding Rules and Restrictions

Restricted Joint Bidders

On April 27, 2026, BOEM published the most recent List of Restricted Joint Bidders in the **Federal Register** (91 FR 22546). Potential bidders are advised to refer to the **Federal Register** before bidding for the most current list at the time of the lease sale. Please refer to the joint bidding provisions at 30 CFR 556.511–556.515.

Authorized Signatures

All signatories executing documents on behalf of the bidder(s) must execute the same in conformance with the BOEM qualification records. Bidders are advised that BOEM considers the signed bid to be a legally binding obligation on the part of the bidder(s) to comply with all applicable regulations, including the required payment of one-fifth of the bonus bid on all high bids. A statement to this effect is included on each bid form (see the document ''Bid Form and Envelope'' that is included in the Final NOS package).

Unlawful Combination or Intimidation

BOEM warns bidders against violation of 18 U.S.C. 1860, which prohibits unlawful combination or intimidation of bidders.

Bid Withdrawal

Bids may only be withdrawn by written request delivered to BOEM via any parcel delivery service, or in-person prior to the bid submission deadline. Withdrawals will not be accepted via email. The withdrawal request must be on company letterhead and must contain the bidder's name, its BOEM qualification number, the map name and number, and the block number(s) of the bid(s) to be withdrawn. The withdrawal request must be executed by one or more of the representatives named in the BOEM qualification records. The name and title of the authorized signatory must be typed under the signature block on the withdrawal request. The BOEM GOA RD, or the RD's designee, will indicate approval by signing and dating the withdrawal request.

Bid Rounding

Minimum bonus bid calculations, including rounding, for all blocks are shown in the document ''List of Blocks Available for Leasing'' that is included in the Final NOS package. The bonus bid amount must be stated in whole dollars. If the acreage of a block contains a decimal figure, then prior to calculating the minimum bonus bid, BOEM will round up to the next whole acre. The appropriate minimum rate per acre will be applied to the whole (rounded up) acreage. The bonus bid amount must be greater than or equal to the minimum bonus bid, as calculated and stated in the Final NOS package.

IX. Forms

The Final NOS package includes instructions, samples, and/or the preferred format for the items listed below. BOEM strongly encourages bidders to use the recommended formats. If bidders use another format, they are responsible for including all the information specified for each item in the Final NOS package.

1. Bid Form
2. Sample Completed Bid
3. Sample Bid Envelope
4. Sample Bid Mailing Envelope
5. Telephone Numbers/Addresses of Bidders Form
6. Survey Parameters Worksheet
7. GDIS Form
8. GDIS Envelope Form

X. The Lease Sale

Bid Opening and Reading

Sealed bids received in response to the Final NOS will be opened at the place, date, and hour specified under the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections of the Final NOS. The venue will not be open to the public. Instead, the bid opening will be available for the public to view on BOEM's website at *http://www.boem.gov* via live streaming. Bidders participating in Lease Sale BBG3 who have gained the required clearance as stated in the ''In-person Bid Submission and/or In-person Bid Reading'' section will be allowed to view bid reading in person. The opening of the bids is for the sole purpose of publicly announcing and recording the bids received; no bids will be accepted or rejected at that time.

Bonus Bid Deposit for Apparent High Bids

Each bidder submitting an apparent high bid must submit a bonus bid deposit to ONRR equal to one-fifth of the bonus bid amount for each such bid. A copy of the notification of the high bidder's one-fifth bonus bid amount can be obtained on the BOEM website at *https://www.boem.gov/Sale-BBG3* under the heading ''Notification of EFT 1/5 Bonus Liability'' after 1:00 p.m. on the day of the sale. All payments must be electronically deposited into an interest-bearing account in the U.S. Treasury by 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time the day following the bid reading (no exceptions). Account information is provided in the ''Instructions for Making Electronic Funds Transfer Bonus Payments'' found on the BOEM website identified above.

Bidders must submit payment to their financial institution as soon as possible on the day of bid reading and no later than 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the day of bid reading. This will help ensure that deposits have time to process through the U.S. Treasury and post to ONRR. ONRR cannot confirm payment until the monies have been moved into settlement status by the U.S. Treasury.

BOEM requires bidders to use EFT procedures for payment of one-fifth bonus bid deposits for Lease Sale BBG3, following the detailed instructions contained on the ONRR Payment Information web page at *https://www.onrr.gov/ReportPay/payments.htm.* Acceptance of a deposit does not constitute, and will not be construed as, acceptance of any bid on behalf of the United States.

Withdrawal of Blocks

The United States reserves the right to withdraw any block from this lease sale before issuance of a written acceptance of a bid for the block.

Acceptance, Rejection, or Return of Bids

The United States reserves the right to reject any and all bids, regardless of the amount offered. Furthermore, no bid will be accepted, and no lease for any block will be awarded to any bidder, unless:

1. The bidder has complied with all applicable regulations and requirements of the Final NOS, including those set forth in the documents contained in the Final NOS package;
2. The bid is the highest valid bid; and
3. The amount of the bid has been determined to be adequate by the authorized officer.

Any bid submitted that does not conform to the requirements of the Final NOS, OCSLA, or other applicable statutes or regulations will be rejected and returned to the bidder. The United States Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission will review the results of the lease sale for any antitrust issues prior to the acceptance of bids and issuance of leases.

Bid Adequacy Review Procedures for Lease Sale BBG3

To ensure that the U.S. Government receives fair market value for the conveyance of leases from this sale, BOEM will evaluate high bids in accordance with the bid adequacy procedures that are effective on the date of the sale. This is the third GOA lease sale to use the revised bid adequacy procedures that BOEM finalized in 2024. The bid adequacy procedures are available on BOEM's website at *https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/leasing/bid-adequacy-procedures.*

Lease Award

BOEM requires each bidder who is awarded a lease to complete the following:

1. Execute all copies of the lease (Form BOEM–2005 [February 2017], as amended);
2. Pay by EFT the balance of the bonus bid amount and the first year's rental for each lease issued in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR 1218.155 and 556.520(a); and
3. Satisfy the bonding requirements of 30 CFR part 556, subpart I, as amended.

ONRR requests that bidders use only one transaction for payment of the balance of the bonus bid amount and the first year's rental. Once ONRR receives such payment, the bidder awarded the lease may not request a refund of the balance of the bonus bid amount or first year's rental payment.

XI. Delay of Sale

The BOEM GOA RD has the discretion to change any date, time, and/or location specified in the Final NOS package if the RD deems that an emergent event could interfere with a fair and orderly lease sale. Such events could include, but are not limited to, natural disasters (*e.g.,* earthquakes, hurricanes, floods), wars, riots, acts of terrorism, fires, strikes, civil disorder, or other events of a similar nature. In case of such events, bidders should call (504) 731–1531 or access the BOEM website at *http://www.boem.gov,* for information regarding any changes.

Matthew N. Giacona,

Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

[FR Doc. 2026–13779 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4340–98–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

[Docket No. BOEM–2026–0232]

Notice of Request for Information: Potential Use of the Outer Continental Shelf for Offshore Space Launch and Re-Entry Activities

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is seeking public input regarding the potential use of submerged lands and existing offshore facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for space launch-related activities, including the siting and operation of offshore space launch platforms and potential identification of re-entry sites on the OCS. This Request for Information (RFI) is intended to inform BOEM's understanding of technical, environmental, operational, legal, regulatory, and interagency considerations associated with such activities. BOEM is not proposing a specific project, lease, easement, right-of-way, or authorization through this RFI. BOEM invites written responses from industry, academic institutions, nongovernmental organizations, Tribal governments, state and local governments, Federal agencies, and members of the public. Information received will inform analysis regarding the extent to which internal evaluation, interagency coordination, and bureau consideration of whether additional

guidance, policy development, or future actions may be appropriate.

DATES: BOEM must receive all comments, and information in response to this RFI no later than August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Please submit comments and other information in response to items listed in the section entitled, ''Requested Information,'' by either of the two following methods:

1. *Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov.* In the entry entitled, ''Enter Keyword or ID'', enter BOEM–2026–0232 and then click ''search''. Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view supporting and related materials available for this notice.

2. *By mail to the following address:* Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Strategic Policy and International Affairs, 1849 C Street NW, Mailstop: MS–5238, Washington, DC 20240.

Treatment of confidential information is addressed in the section of this notice entitled, ''Protection of Privileged, Personal, or Confidential Information.'' BOEM will post all comments on *regulations.gov* unless they are labeled as confidential.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Audrey Taylor, BOEM Office of Strategic Policy and International Affairs, 1849 C Street NW, Mailstop: MS–5238, Washington, DC 20240, 571–585–6084, or *spacelaunches@boem.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Purpose and Background

BOEM facilitates access to the development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy, mineral, and geological resources pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA). In addition to oil, gas, and renewable energy development, OCSLA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant leases, easements, or rights-of-way to ''produce or support production, transportation, storage, or transmission of energy from sources other than oil and gas'' (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)). In the case of an existing OCS facility, OCSLA also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant leases, easements, or rights-of-way for activities that ''use, for energy-related purposes or for other authorized marine-related purposes, facilities currently or previously used for activities authorized under this Act.'' (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)).

Advances in commercial space transportation, combined with evolving national priorities to expand U.S. leadership in space exploration, economic competitiveness, and commercial space markets, have increased interest in commercial offshore space launch, re-entry, and recovery concepts. On December 18, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14369 entitled, *Ensuring American Space Superiority,* which directs Federal departments and agencies to pursue space policy priorities that include expanding human reach and American presence in space, enhancing cost-effective launch architectures, and growing a vibrant commercial space economy, including through increased launch and reentry cadence and new or upgraded facilities.

BOEM is considering whether these concepts may encompass the repurposing of existing offshore infrastructure (*e.g.,* mobile offshore drilling units or other fixed platforms previously used for oil and gas operations), as well as the potential development of new, purpose-built offshore facilities dedicated to commercial space launches, space re-entry, and related activities on the OCS. The siting, construction, and operation of such platforms or facilities—whether repurposed or newly constructed—would likely implicate multiple Federal authorities and legal frameworks. BOEM is issuing this RFI to improve its understanding of these considerations and to inform potential future interagency coordination, policy development, or guidance before any policy positions or decisions are finalized.

The purpose of this RFI is to:

- Enhance BOEM's understanding of potential offshore space launch and re-entry concepts relevant to the OCS;
- Determine technical, operational, environmental, spatial, and other considerations associated with siting offshore space launch platforms or identified re-entry locations;
- Gather information on any relevant domestic and international guidelines, standards, and practices;
- Identify potential interactions with existing OCS uses and ocean users;
- Understand active relevant research and gaps across applicable technology and environmental impacts.

This RFI does not constitute a solicitation, a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement, or a proposal to authorize any activity. BOEM is not requesting nominations or project-specific information.

2. Requested Information

BOEM requests specific and detailed comments from the public, including commercial space companies and other interested and affected parties on the following subjects.

a. Offshore Space Launch Concepts

- What types of offshore space launch platforms are currently under consideration (*e.g.,* fixed platforms, MODUs, floating launch systems)?
- How might existing or previously used offshore oil and gas facilities be adapted for such purposes?
- Is there industry appetite for the reuse of existing OCS facilities?

b. Offshore Re-Entry Locations and Infrastructure

- What types of offshore re-entry or recovery infrastructure are currently under consideration?
- Have re-entry locations already been identified on the OCS?
- How might existing or previously used offshore oil and gas facilities be adapted for such purposes?
- Is there industry appetite for the reuse of existing OCS facilities?

c. Location and Site Considerations

- What geographic, oceanographic, or operational factors would influence the siting of offshore space launch and re-entry facilities?
- What distances from shore, water depths, or seabed conditions would typically be required or preferred?

d. Technical and Operational Considerations

- What infrastructure, support vessels, safety zones, or onshore facilities would be associated with offshore space launch and re-entry operations?
- What operational timelines or frequencies could reasonably be anticipated?

e. Environmental Considerations

- What potential environmental impacts or risks may be associated with offshore space launch, re-entry, and recovery activities? How might these impacts be mitigated?
- What data gaps or research needs should be addressed to better assess environmental effects?

f. Legal Considerations

- BOEM anticipates relying on the Secretary of the Interior's broad authority in section 8(p) of OCSLA to authorize the use of existing offshore oil and gas platforms and new offshore facilities for space launch and re-entry activities.
- Are there other legal authorities that would bolster BOEM's ability to authorize these activities?
- What other legal issues should BOEM consider in relation to authorizing offshore space launch and re-entry activities?

g. Interactions With Existing OCS Uses

- How might offshore space launch and re-entry activities interact with oil and gas operations, other existing infrastructure, commercial fisheries, navigation, military activities, or cultural resources?
- What measures could reduce conflicts or enhance compatibility among uses?
- Are there potential scenarios in which offshore commercial space launch or re-entry facilities could be co-located with, or function as an alternate or complementary use to, other existing or proposed OCS-authorized activities? If so, what technical, operational, or planning considerations should BOEM evaluate?

h. Guidelines, Standards, and Practices

- What existing domestic guidelines, standards, or best practices—including offshore engineering, maritime, aerospace, environmental, and safety standards—are relevant to the siting, design, construction, operation, or decommissioning of offshore commercial space launch or re-entry facilities?
- Are there industry consensus standards, voluntary best practices, emerging technical standards, research initiatives, or guidance documents that should be considered when evaluating offshore commercial space launch or re-entry facilities?

i. Consultations and Environmental Review

- What approaches to consultations and environmental review, including those applied under the National Environmental Policy Act, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Essential Fish Habitat, National Historic Preservation Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Government to Government, Clean Water and Air Acts, and other applicable laws, may be appropriate for offshore space launch or re-entry activities involving OCS facilities?
- What considerations should BOEM evaluate when determining the timing, sequencing, and scope of environmental review for potential actions related to offshore commercial space launch or re-entry facilities?

j. International Context

- Are there international agreements, conventions, or multilateral frameworks that may be relevant to offshore commercial space launch or re-entry activities?
- Have any countries developed regulatory models, safety standards, or environmental review frameworks specifically for offshore launch platforms or re-entry sites?
- Are there international organizations or forums currently addressing environmental, safety, or maritime considerations related to offshore space launch or re-entry activities?
- How are other nations approaching offshore or sea-based space launch or re-entry operations?

k. Stakeholder Engagement

- With which stakeholder groups should BOEM engage with as it evaluates this potential use of the OCS?
- How can BOEM best engage with stakeholder groups during its next steps/evaluation?

3. Protection of Privileged, Personal, or Confidential Information

a. Freedom of Information Act

BOEM will protect privileged and confidential information that you submit as required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Exemption 4 of FOIA applies to trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. If you wish to protect the confidentiality of such information, clearly label it and request that BOEM treat it as confidential. BOEM will not disclose such information if BOEM determines that it qualifies for exemption from disclosure under FOIA. Please label privileged or confidential information ''Contains Confidential Information'' and consider submitting such information as a separate attachment, along with an explanation on why the information should not be subject to disclosure.

BOEM will not treat as confidential any aggregate summaries of information or comments not containing privileged or confidential information. Additionally, BOEM will not treat as confidential the legal title of the commenter (for example, the name of your company). Information that is not labeled as privileged or confidential may be regarded by BOEM as suitable for public release.

b. Personally Identifiable Information

Include your name and address as part of your comment. You should be aware that your entire comment, including your name, address, and any personally identifiable information (PII) included in your comment, may be made publicly available at any time. Even if BOEM withholds your information in the context of this RFI, your submission is subject to FOIA. If your submission is subject to a FOIA request, your information will only be withheld if a determination is made that one of the FOIA's exemptions to disclosure applies. Such a determination will be made in accordance with the Department of the Interior's FOIA regulations and applicable law.

For BOEM to consider withholding from disclosure your PII, you must identify in a cover letter any information contained in your comment that, if released, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of your personal privacy. You must also briefly describe any possible harmful consequences of the disclosure of your PII, such as embarrassment, injury, or other harm. Note that BOEM will make available for public inspection all comments, in their entirety, submitted by organizations and businesses, or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses.

c. Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 307103(a))

After consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, BOEM is required to withhold the location, character, or ownership of historic resources if it determines that disclosure may, among other things, risk harm to the historic resources or impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners. Tribal entities should designate information that falls under Section 304 of NHPA as confidential.

Matthew N. Giacona,

Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

[FR Doc. 2026–13788 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4340–98–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 337–TA–1432]

Certain Mobile Electronic Devices; Notice of Request for Submissions on the Public Interest

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that on July 1, 2026, the presiding administrative law judge (''ALJ'') issued an Initial Determination on Violation of Section 337. The ALJ also issued a Recommended Determination on remedy and bonding should a violation be found in the above-captioned investigation. The Commission is

soliciting submissions on public interest issues raised by the recommended relief should the Commission find a violation. This notice is soliciting comments from the public and interested government agencies only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Namo Kim, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, telephone (202) 205–3459. Copies of non-confidential documents filed in connection with this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at *https://edis.usitc.gov.* For help accessing EDIS, please email *EDIS3Help@usitc.gov.* General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server at *https://www.usitc.gov.* Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on (202) 205–1810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 provides that, if the Commission finds a violation, it shall exclude the articles concerned from the United States unless, after considering the effect of such exclusion upon the public health and welfare, competitive conditions in the United States economy, the production of like or directly competitive articles in the United States, and United States consumers, it finds that such articles should not be excluded from entry. (19 U.S.C. 1337(d)(1)). A similar provision applies to cease and desist orders. (19 U.S.C. 1337(f)(1)).

The Commission is soliciting submissions on public interest issues raised by the recommended relief should the Commission find a violation, specifically: a limited exclusion order directed to certain mobile electronic devices imported, sold for importation, and/or sold after importation by respondents Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. of Suwon-Shi, Republic of Korea and Samsung Electronics America, Inc. of New Jersey (collectively, ''Samsung''); and cease and desist orders directed to Samsung. Parties are to file public interest submissions pursuant to 19 CFR 210.50(a)(4).

The Commission is interested in further development of the record on the public interest in this investigation. Accordingly, members of the public and interested government agencies are invited to file submissions of no more than five (5) pages, inclusive of attachments, concerning the public interest in light of the ALJ's Recommended Determination on Remedy and Bonding issued in this investigation on July 1, 2026. Comments should address whether issuance of the recommended remedial orders in this investigation, should the Commission find a violation, would affect the public health and welfare in the United States, competitive conditions in the United States economy, the production of like or directly competitive articles in the United States, or United States consumers.

In particular, the Commission is interested in comments that:

(i) explain how the articles potentially subject to the recommended remedial orders are used in the United States;

(ii) identify any public health, safety, or welfare concerns in the United States relating to the recommended orders;

(iii) identify like or directly competitive articles that complainant, its licensees, or third parties make in the United States which could replace the subject articles if they were to be excluded;

(iv) indicate whether complainant, complainant's licensees, and/or third-party suppliers have the capacity to replace the volume of articles potentially subject to the recommended orders within a commercially reasonable time; and

(v) explain how the recommended orders would impact consumers in the United States.

Written submissions must be filed no later than by close of business on August 6, 2026.

Persons filing written submissions must file the original document electronically on or before the deadlines stated above pursuant to 19 CFR 210.4(f). Submissions should refer to the investigation number (''Inv. No. 337–TA–1432'') in a prominent place on the cover page and/or the first page. (*See* Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures, *https://www.usitc.gov/secretary/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf*). Persons with questions regarding filing should contact the Secretary (202–205–2000).

Any person desiring to submit a document to the Commission in confidence must request confidential treatment by marking each document with a header indicating that the document contains confidential information. This marking will be deemed to satisfy the request procedure set forth in Rules 201.6(b) and 210.5(e)(2) (19 CFR 201.6(b) & 210.5(e)(2)). Documents for which confidential treatment by the Commission is properly sought will be treated accordingly. Any non-party wishing to submit comments containing confidential information must serve those comments on the parties to the investigation pursuant to the applicable Administrative Protective Order. A redacted non-confidential version of the document must also be filed simultaneously with any confidential filing and must be served in accordance with Commission Rule 210.4(f)(7)(ii)(A) (19 CFR 210.4(f)(7)(ii)(A)). All information, including confidential business information and documents for which confidential treatment is properly sought, submitted to the Commission for purposes of this investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel, solely for cybersecurity purposes. All contract personnel will sign appropriate nondisclosure agreements. All nonconfidential written submissions will be available for public inspection on EDIS.

This action is taken under the authority of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337), and in Part 210 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR part 210).

By order of the Commission.

Issued: July 6, 2026.

Lisa Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2026–13811 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation. No. 337–TA–1453]

Certain Boiler Protection for Absorption Refrigeration Systems and Components Thereof; Notice of a Commission Determination To Review in Part an Initial Determination Granting Summary Determination of Violation of Section 337; Request for Written Submissions on Remedy, the Public Interest, and Bonding

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has determined to review in part an initial determination (''ID'')

issued by the presiding chief administrative law judge (''CALJ'') granting a motion for summary determination of violation of section 337. The Commission requests written submissions from the parties, interested government agencies, and interested persons on the issues of remedy, the public interest, and bonding, under the schedule set forth below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert J. Needham, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, telephone (202) 708–5468. Copies of non-confidential documents filed in connection with this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at *http://edis.usitc.gov.* For help accessing EDIS, please email *EDIS3Help@usitc.gov.* General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server (*http://www.usitc.gov*). Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on (202) 205–1810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission instituted the investigation on June 18, 2025, based on a complaint, as supplemented, filed by Complainants ARPC LLC and Paul N. Unmack (together, ''Complainants''), both of Butte, Montana. 90 FR 26066–67 (Jun. 18, 2026). The complaint alleged violations of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain boiler protection for absorption refrigeration systems by reason of infringement of certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 8,056,360 (''the '360 patent''). *Id.* at 26066. The Commission's notice of investigation named 10 respondents: Kuofanghenanmaoyiyouxiangongsi of Zhengzhou, China (''Koofang''); Wuhuj iaoxiangdianzishangwuyouxiangongsi of Wuhu, China (''Bydorunce''); Shenzhenshi Xiangfan Xinxizixun Youxiangongsi of Shenzhen, China (''RVGIVE''); Ruianshichensum aoyiyouxiangongsi of Rui'an, China (''Tesmirror''); Wuhu Tianhao e-commerce Co., Ltd of Wuhu, China (''iFJF''); shen zhen shi hong kang da ke ji you xian gong si of Shenzhen, China (''HKDAUTOTECH''); guangzhou yingpeng dianzi shangwu youxiangongsi of Guangzhou, China (''VISVIC''); Wang Hai Ping of Guangzhou, China (''Hofantek''); shen zhen shi xing han xing dian zi shang wu you xian gong si of Shenzhen, China (''XHXAUTO''); and Qingy uannuozedianzishangwuyouxian zerengongsi of Qingyuan, China (''Little Bear Pocket''). *Id.* The Office of Unfair Import Investigations (''OUII'') is participating in this investigation. *Id.*

On November 21, 2025, Complainants moved for an order to show cause and an entry of default against seven respondents—Koofang, Bydorunce, RVGIVE, Tesmirror, iFJF, HKDAUTOTECH, and VISVIC. On December 2, 2025, OUII filed a response in support of the motion. On December 8, 2025, the CALJ issued an order to show cause against Koofang, Bydorunce, RVGIVE, Tesmirror, iFJF, HKDAUTOTECH, and VISVIC. Order No. 8 (Dec. 8, 2025).

On December 11, 2025, Complainants moved to withdraw the complaint and terminate the investigation with respect to the three unserved respondents—Hofantek, Tesmirror, and XHXAUTO. On December 15, 2025, OUII filed a response in support of the motion. The Commission terminated those parties from the investigation. Order No. 10 (Dec. 19, 2025), *unreviewed by* Notice (Jan. 8, 2026).

On December 19, 2025, the CALJ issued an order correcting Order No. 8 based on the inadvertent exclusion of Little Bear Pocket and inadvertent inclusion of Tesmirror, and ordered Little Bear Pocket to show cause why it should not be found in default. Order No. 9 (Dec. 19, 2025).

On January 11, 2026, Complainants moved for a summary determination of violation against the seven respondents subject to the show cause order, and requested the issuance of a GEO, the issuance of CDOs against each respondent, and the imposition of a bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the entered value of the infringing articles. On February 9, 2026, OUII filed a response in support of the motion.

On February 24, 2026, respondents Bydorunce and iFJF moved to terminate the investigation based on the entry of a consent order. On February 27, 2026, OUII filed a response supporting the motion to terminate the investigation with respect to those parties. On March 6, 2026, Complainants filed a response supporting the motion. The Commission subsequently terminated Bydorunce and iFJF from the investigation. Order No. 17 (Mar. 11, 2026), *unreviewed by* Comm'n Notice (Mar. 30, 2026).

On February 25, 2026, the CALJ found respondents Koofang, RVGIVE, Little Bear Pocket, and VISVIC (together, ''the Defaulting Respondents'') in default for failing to respond to the order to show cause why they should not be found in default. Order No. 16 (Feb. 25, 2026), *unreviewed by* Notice (Mar. 20, 2026). The CALJ also declined to find HKDAUTOTECH in default because Complainants could not establish that the show cause order was served on HKDAUTOTECH.

On March 6, 2026, Complainants moved to terminate the investigation with respect to HKDAUTOTECH based on a partial withdrawal of the complaint. On March 12, 2026, OUII filed a response in support of the motion. The Commission subsequently terminated HKDAUTOTECH from the investigation. Order No. 19 (Mar. 24, 2026), *unreviewed by* Comm'n Notice (Apr. 15, 2026).

On May 21, 2026, the CALJ issued the subject ID granting the motion for summary determination of violation. Specifically, the ID found that: (1) the importation requirement is satisfied for all Defaulting Respondents; (2) all Defaulting Respondents' accused products infringe claims 1, 4, 6, and 10 of the '340 patent; (3) the asserted domestic industry product satisfies claims 1, 4, 6, and 10 of the '340 patent; and (4) the economic prong of the domestic industry requirement is satisfied under both subsection 337(a)(3)(A) and (B). The CALJ recommended that the Commission issue a GEO, CDOs against each Defaulting Respondent, and set a bond rate of one hundred percent (100%) of the entered value of the imported articles. No party petitioned for review of the ID.

Having examined the record of this investigation, including the subject ID, the Commission has determined to review the ID's findings on the economic prong of the domestic industry requirement. Complainant is not to brief the issue on review, which is adequately presented in the existing filings. The Commission has determined not to review the remainder of the ID.

In connection with the final disposition of this investigation, the statute authorizes issuance of, inter alia, (1) an exclusion order that could result in the exclusion of the subject articles from entry into the United States and/or (2) cease and desist orders that could result in the respondents being required to cease and desist from engaging in unfair acts in the importation and sale of such articles. Accordingly, the Commission is interested in receiving written submissions that address the form of remedy, if any, that should be ordered. If a party seeks exclusion of an article from entry into the United States for purposes other than entry for consumption, the party should so indicate and provide information establishing that activities involving other types of entry either are adversely

affecting it or likely to do so. For background, see *Certain Devices for Connecting Computers via Telephone Lines,* Inv. No. 337–TA–360, USITC Pub. No. 2843, Comm'n Op. at 7–10 (Dec. 1994).

The statute requires the Commission to consider the effects of that remedy upon the public interest. The public interest factors the Commission will consider include the effect that an exclusion order and cease and desist orders would have on: (1) the public health and welfare, (2) competitive conditions in the U.S. economy, (3) U.S. production of articles that are like or directly competitive with those that are subject to investigation, and (4) U.S. consumers. The Commission is therefore interested in receiving written submissions that address the aforementioned public interest factors in the context of this investigation.

If the Commission orders some form of remedy, the U.S. Trade Representative, as delegated by the President, has 60 days to approve, disapprove, or take no action on the Commission's determination. *See* Presidential Memorandum of July 21, 2005, 70 FR 43251 (July 26, 2005). During this period, the subject articles would be entitled to enter the United States under bond, in an amount determined by the Commission and prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. The Commission is therefore interested in receiving submissions concerning the amount of the bond that should be imposed if a remedy is ordered.

Written Submissions: Parties to the investigation, interested government agencies, and any other interested parties are encouraged to file written submissions on the issues of remedy, the public interest, and bonding. Such submissions should address the recommended determination by the ALJ on remedy and bonding.

In their initial submission, Complainants are also requested to identify the remedy sought and Complainants and OUII are requested to submit proposed remedial orders for the Commission's consideration. Complainant is further requested to state the HTSUS subheadings under which the accused products are imported and to supply the identification information for all known importers of the products at issue in this investigation. All initial written submissions, from the parties and/or third parties/interested government agencies, and proposed remedial orders from the parties must be filed no later than close of business on July 20, 2026. All reply submissions must be filed no later than the close of business on July 27, 2026. All submission from third parties and/or interested government agencies are limited to 10 pages. No further submissions on these issues will be permitted unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Persons filing written submissions must file the original document electronically on or before the deadlines stated above pursuant to 19 CFR 210.4(f). Submissions should refer to the investigation number (Inv. No. 337–TA–1453) in a prominent place on the cover page and/or the first page. (*See* Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures, *https://www.usitc.gov/secretary/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf*). Persons with questions regarding filing should contact the Secretary, (202) 205–2000.

Any person desiring to submit a document to the Commission in confidence must request confidential treatment by marking each document with a header indicating that the document contains confidential information. This marking will be deemed to satisfy the request procedure set forth in Rules 201.6(b) and 210.5(e)(2) (19 CFR 201.6(b) & 210.5(e)(2)). Documents for which confidential treatment by the Commission is properly sought will be treated accordingly. A redacted non-confidential version of the document must also be filed simultaneously with any confidential filing. All information, including confidential business information and documents for which confidential treatment is properly sought, submitted to the Commission for purposes of this investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel, solely for cybersecurity purposes. All contract personnel will sign appropriate nondisclosure agreements. All nonconfidential written submissions will be available for public inspection on EDIS.

The Commission vote for this determination took place on July 6, 2026.

The authority for the Commission's determination is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337), and in part 210 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR part 210).

By order of the Commission.

Issued: July 6, 2026.

Lisa Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2026–13783 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701–TA–652 and 731–TA–1524–1526 (Review)]

Silicon Metal From Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iceland, Kazakhstan, and Malaysia; Scheduling of Expedited Five-Year Reviews

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice of the scheduling of expedited reviews pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 (''the Act'') to determine whether revocation of the antidumping duty and countervailing duty orders on silicon metal from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iceland, Kazakhstan, and Malaysia would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time.

DATES: June 5, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nitin Joshi (202) 708–1669, Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202–205–1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202–205–2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server (*https://www.usitc.gov*). The public record for this proceeding may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at *https://edis.usitc.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background.—On June 5, 2026, the Commission determined that the domestic interested party group response to its notice of institution (91 FR 10148, March 2, 2026) of the subject five-year reviews was adequate and that the respondent interested party group response was inadequate. The Commission did not find any other circumstances that would warrant

conducting full reviews.[1] Accordingly, the Commission determined that it would conduct expedited reviews pursuant to section 751(c)(3) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)(3)).

For further information concerning the conduct of these reviews and rules of general application, consult the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A and B (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A, D, E, and F (19 CFR part 207).

Staff report.—A staff report containing information concerning the subject matter of the reviews has been placed in the nonpublic record, and will be made available to persons on the Administrative Protective Order service list for these reviews on July 31, 2026. A public version will be issued thereafter, pursuant to § 207.62(d)(4) of the Commission's rules.

Written submissions.—As provided in § 207.62(d) of the Commission's rules, interested parties that are parties to the reviews and that have provided individually adequate responses to the notice of institution,[2] and any party other than an interested party to the reviews may file written comments with the Secretary on what determination the Commission should reach in the reviews. Comments are due on or before August 7, 2026 and may not contain new factual information. Any person that is neither a party to the five-year reviews nor an interested party may submit a brief written statement (which shall not contain any new factual information) pertinent to the reviews by August 7, 2026. However, should the Department of Commerce (''Commerce'') extend the time limit for its completion of the final results of its reviews, the deadline for comments (which may not contain new factual information) on Commerce's final results is three business days after the issuance of Commerce's results. If comments contain business proprietary information (BPI), they must conform with the requirements of §§ 201.6, 207.3, and 207.7 of the Commission's rules. The Commission's *Handbook on Filing Procedures,* available on the Commission's website at *https://www.usitc.gov/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf,* elaborates upon the Commission's procedures with respect to filings.

In accordance with §§ 201.16(c) and 207.3 of the rules, each document filed by a party to the reviews must be served on all other parties to the reviews (as identified by either the public or BPI service list), and a certificate of service must be timely filed. The Secretary will not accept a document for filing without a certificate of service.

Determination.—The Commission has determined this review/these reviews is/are extraordinarily complicated and therefore has determined to exercise its authority to extend the review period by up to 90 days pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1675(c)(5)(B).

Authority: These reviews are being conducted under authority of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930; this notice is published pursuant to § 207.62 of the Commission's rules.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: July 6, 2026.

Lisa Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2026–13767 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

[1] A record of the Commissioners' votes, the Commission's statement on adequacy, and any individual Commissioner's statements will be available from the Office of the Secretary and at the Commission's website.

[2] The Commission has found the responses submitted on behalf of Ferroglobe USA, Inc., and Mississippi Silicon LLC to be individually adequate. Comments from other interested parties will not be accepted (*see* 19 CFR 207.62(d)(2)).

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: The Finance Committee of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) Board of Directors will meet on July 13, 2026. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time and continue until the conclusion of the meeting agenda.

PLACE: Public notice of virtual meeting.

LSC will conduct its July 13, 2026, meeting virtually via videoconference.

Public Observation: 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.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Meeting Schedule

Monday, July 13, 2026—Finance Committee Meeting

Start Time—11:00 a.m. ET

a. Matters to be discussed include LSC's Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Appropriation Request and considering and acting on Resolution #2026–XXX: Adopting LSC's Appropriation Request for Fiscal Year 2028.

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: July 6, 2026.

Stefanie Davis,

Deputy General Counsel, Legal Services Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2026–13790 Filed 7–6–26; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 7050–01–P

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Submission for Review: 3206–NEW, Request for Reduction or Cancellation of Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), RI 76–30

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: 30-Day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Retirement Services offers the general public and other federal agencies the opportunity to comment on OPM's submission to OMB for approval of a new information collection, Request for Reduction or Cancellation of Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), RI 76–30.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until August 7, 2026. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.1.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find this particular information collection request by selecting ''Office of Personnel Management'' under ''Currently Under Review,'' then check ''Only Show ICR for Public Comment'' checkbox.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to this information collection activities, please contact: Retirement Services Publications Team, Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street NW, Room 3316–BD, Washington, DC 20415, Attention: Cyrus S. Benson, or sent via electronic mail to *RSPublicationsTeam@opm.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Personnel Management, in

accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Agency assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Agency's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. OPM is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection that is described below. The Agency is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Agency; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Agency enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Agency 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.

OPM published notice and accepted comment on an existing information collection request (ICR) without approval, Request for Reduction or Cancellation of Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI), RI 76–30, on December 3, 2025 (90 FR 55766). OPM received two comments. One comment was in general support of the idea while the other comment was requesting to be enrolled in FEGLI. We thank the supportive commenter and direct the second commenter to *https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/life-insurance/enrollment/.*

Annuitants who are enrolled in the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program can cancel or reduce their coverage. The form, RI 76–30, ensures that an individual is fully informed about the effect of cancellation of FEGLI coverage. A cancellation of enrollment within the FEGLI Program will inhibit the annuitant from ever re-enrolling as an annuitant. A reduction of coverage within the FEGLI Program (Basic Life Insurance, Option B-Additional Insurance, Option C-Family Insurance) will prohibit the annuitant from increasing their coverage as an annuitant. A request is not processed until the signed form is returned to OPM.

Analysis

Agency: Office of Personnel Management, Retirement Services.

Title: Request for Reduction or Cancellation of Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI).

OMB Number: 3206–NEW.

Frequency: On occasion.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Number of Respondents: 5,000.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Total Burden Hours: 835.

Office of Personnel Management.

Alexys Stanley,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 2026–13804 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6325–38–P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. MC2026–292 and K2026–289; MC2026–293 and K2026–290; MC2026–294 and K2026–291; MC2026–295 and K2026–292]

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:* July 13, 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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II. Public Proceeding(s)
III. Summary Proceeding(s)

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

[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).

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).:* MC2026–293 and K2026–290; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail & USPS Ground Advantage & Parcel Select Contract 7 to the Competitive Product List and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* July 2, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.310; *Public Representative:* Jennaca Upperman; *Comments Due:* July 13, 2026.

III. Summary Proceeding(s)

1. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–292 and K2026–289; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Fulfillment Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 1029, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* July 2, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

2. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–294 and K2026–291; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Mid-Market Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 1030, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* July 2, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

3. *Docket No(s).:* MC2026–295 and K2026–292; *Filing Title:* USPS Request to Add New Fulfillment Standardized Distinct Product, PM–GA Contract 1031, and Notice of Filing Materials Under Seal; *Filing Acceptance Date:* July 2, 2026; *Filing Authority:* 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3633, 39 CFR 3035.105, and 39 CFR 3041.325.

This Notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Danielle LeFlore,

Legal Assistant.

[FR Doc. 2026–13762 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–FW–P

POSTAL SERVICE

Product Change—Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and USPS Ground Advantage Negotiated Service Agreements; Priority Mail, and USPS Ground Advantage Negotiated Service Agreements; Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Ground Advantage, and Parcel Select Negotiated Service Agreements

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service gives notice of filing a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission to add a domestic shipping services contract to the list of Negotiated Service Agreements in the Mail Classification Schedule's Competitive Products List.

DATES: *Date of required notice:* July 8, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sean C. Robinson, 202–268–8405.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Postal Service hereby gives notice that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3632(b)(3), it filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission the following requests:

Date filed with Postal Regulatory Commission	Negotiated service agreement product category and number	MC docket number	K docket number
06/30/26	PM–GA 1027	MC2026–288	K2026–285
07/01/26	PME–PM–GA 1502	MC2026–289	K2026–286
07/01/26	PM–GA 1028	MC2026–291	K2026–288
07/02/26	PM–GA 1029	MC2026–292	K2026–289
07/02/26	PME–PM–GA–PS 7	MC2026–293	K2026–290
07/02/26	PM–GA 1030	MC2026–294	K2026–291
07/02/26	PM–GA 1031	MC2026–295	K2026–292

Documents are available at *www.prc.gov.*

Sean C. Robinson,

Attorney, Corporate and Postal Business Law.

[FR Doc. 2026–13722 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

POSTAL SERVICE

International Product Change—Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Agreement

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service gives notice of filing a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission to add a Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service contract to the list of Negotiated Service Agreements in the Competitive Product List in the Mail Classification Schedule.

DATES: Date of notice: July 8, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher C. Meyerson, (202) 268–7820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Postal Service hereby gives notice that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3632(b)(3), on June 30, 2026, it filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission a *USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International & First-Class Package International Service Contract 116 to Competitive Product List.* Documents are available at *www.prc.gov,* Docket Nos. MC2026–287 and K2026–284.

Colleen Hibbert-Kapler,

Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2026–13728 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 13064]

Notice of Public Meeting To Prepare for International Maritime Organization III 12 Session

The Department of State will conduct a public meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Friday July 10, 2026, by way of teleconference. The primary purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the twelfth session of the International Maritime Organization's

(IMO) Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments to be held in London, United Kingdom, from Monday, July 20, 2026, to Friday, July 24, 2026.

The agenda items to be considered at the advisory committee mirror those to be considered at III 12, and include:

—Decisions of other IMO bodies;
—Consideration and analysis of reports on alleged inadequacy of port reception facilities;
—Lessons learned and safety issues identified from the analysis of marine safety investigation reports;
—Review of the Casualty Investigation Code and the associated implementation Guidelines;
—Measures to harmonize port state control (PSC) activities and procedures worldwide;
—Development of an entrant training manual for PSC personnel;
—Identified issues related to the implementation of IMO instruments from the analysis of data;
—Updated survey guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC);
—Non-exhaustive list of obligations under the instruments relevant to the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code);
—Comprehensive revision of the Guidelines on the implementation of the ISM Code by Administrations and companies;
—Unified interpretation of provisions of IMO safety, security, and environment related conventions;
—Cooperate with the United Nations on matters of mutual interest, as well as provide relevant input/guidance—Review the draft guidelines for the seaworthiness and safety inspection of small fishing vessels and associated inspection checklist;
—Biennial status report and provisional agenda for III 13;
—Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2027; and
—Any other business.

Please note: The IMO may, on short notice, adjust the III 12 agenda to accommodate any constraints associated with the meeting. Although no changes to the agenda are anticipated, if any are necessary, they will be provided to those who RSVP.

Those who plan to participate may contact the meeting coordinator, Mr. Christopher Gagnon, by email at *christopher.j.gagnon@uscg.mil,* by phone at (571) 607–4367, or in writing at 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE Stop 7501, Washington, DC 20593–7509. Members of the public needing reasonable accommodation should advise Mr. Gagnon not later than July 08, 2026. Requests made after that date will be considered but might not be possible to fulfill.

Additional information regarding this and other IMO public meetings may be found at: *https://www.dco.uscg.mil/IMO.*

(Authority: 22 U.S.C. 2656 and 5 U.S.C. 552)

Emily M. Gibbons,

Coast Guard Liaison Officer, Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–13766 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–09–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 13063]

30-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J–1) Status

ACTION: Notice of request for public comment and submission to OMB of proposed collection of information.

SUMMARY: The Department of State has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. 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 30 days for public comment.

DATES: Submit comments up to August 7, 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.

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 Karen Ward, Director, Office of Private Sector Exchange Designation, Office of Private Sector Exchange, ECA/EC/D, SA–5, Floor 5, Department of State, 2200 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20522–0505, who may be reached at *JExchanges@state.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J–1) Status.
- *OMB Control Number:* 1405–0119.
- *Type of Request:* Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.
- *Originating Office:* Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Office of Private Sector Exchange Designation (ECA/EC/D).
- *Form Number:* DS–2019.
- *Respondents:* U.S. Department of State designated sponsors.
- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,420.
- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 300,000.
- *Average Time per Response:* 45 minutes.
- *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 225,000 annual hours.
- *Frequency:* On occasion.
- *Obligation to Respond:* Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit.

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 collection is the continuation of information collected and needed by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in administering the Exchange Visitor Program (J-Nonimmigrant) under the provisions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2451, *et seq.*). The Form DS–2019 is the document that provides the information needed to identify an individual (and spouse and dependents, where applicable) seeking to enter the United States as an Exchange Visitor in J-Nonimmigrant status. The Department did not receive any comments during the 60-day public comment period, therefore no changes have been made to the form.

Methodology

Access to Form DS–2019 is made available to Department-designated

sponsors electronically via the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

Rebecca A. Pasini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Private Sector Exchange, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2026–13736 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. FAA–2026–7210]

Notice of Intent To Designate as Abandoned Javelin Conversions, Inc.; Supplemental Type Certificates

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to designate Javelin Conversions, Inc., supplemental type certificates as abandoned; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the FAA's intent to designate 11 Javelin Conversions, Inc., Supplemental Type Certificates (STCs) as abandoned and make the related engineering data available upon request. The FAA has received a request to provide engineering data concerning these STCs. The FAA has been unsuccessful in contacting Javelin Conversions, Inc., concerning these STCs. This action is intended to enhance aviation safety.

DATES: The FAA must receive all comments by January 4, 2027.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments on this notice by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to *regulations.gov.* Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Aourolia Kristianti, AIR–761, Federal Aviation Administration, Central Certification Branch, 1801 South Airport Rd., Room 100, Wichita, KS 67209.
- *Email: 9-AVS-CCB-Correspondence@faa.gov.* Include ''Docket No. FAA–2026–7210'' in the subject line of the message.
- *Hand Delivery:* Deliver to Mail address above between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Aourolia Kristianti, Aviation Safety Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Central Certification Branch, 1801 South Airport Rd., Room 100, Wichita, KS 67209; telephone (316) 946–4121; email *9-AVS-CCB-Correspondence@faa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

The FAA invites interested parties to provide comments, written data, views, or arguments relating to this notice. Send your comments to an address listed under **ADDRESSES**. Include ''Docket No. FAA–2026–7210'' at the beginning of your comments. The FAA will consider all comments received on or before the closing date. All comments received will be available in the docket for examination by interested persons.

Background

The FAA is posting this notice to inform the public that the FAA intends to designate as abandoned and subsequently release the related engineering data for the following Javelin Conversions, Inc. STC Nos.: SA2082WE, SA2093CE, SA2122WE, SA2242SW, SA2568NM, SA2570NM, SA2680SW, SA341NE, SA404NE, SA441NE, and SE2569NM.

Descriptions of the STC design changes and affected aircraft models are available at *https://drs.faa.gov/browse/STC/doctypeDetails.*

The FAA has received a third-party request for the release of the aforementioned engineering data under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. The FAA cannot release commercial or financial information under FOIA without the permission of the data owner. However, in accordance with title 49 of the United States Code § 44704(a)(5), the FAA can provide STC ''engineering data'' it possesses for STC maintenance or improvement, upon request, if the following conditions are met:

1. The FAA determines the STC has been inactive for 3 years or more;
2. Using due diligence, the FAA is unable to locate the owner of record or the owner of record's heir; and
3. The availability of such data will enhance aviation safety.

There has been no activity on this STC for more than 3 years.

On February 27, 2026, the FAA sent a registered letter to Javelin Conversions, Inc., to its last known address: 8421 Nelms Street, Houston, TX 77061 and Eight Greenway Plaza, Ste 930 Houston, TX 77046. The letter informed Javelin Conversions, Inc., that the FAA had received a request for engineering data related to STC No. SA2568NM, SE2569NM, SA2570NM, SA341NE, and SA441NE and was conducting a due diligence search to determine whether these STCs and 6 other STCs were inactive and may be considered abandoned. The letter further requested that the company respond in writing within 60 days and state whether it is the holder of these 11 STCs. The FAA has also attempted to make contact with Javelin Conversions, Inc., by other means, including telephone communication and emails, but without success.

Information Requested

If you are the owner or heir or a transferee of all 11 STCs or have any knowledge regarding who may now hold any of these STCs, please contact Aourolia Kristianti using a method described in this notice under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. If you are the heir of the owner, or the owner by transfer of any of these STCs, you must provide a notarized copy of your government-issued identification with a letter and background establishing your ownership of any of the STCs and, if applicable, your relationship as the heir to the deceased holder of the STCs.

Conclusion

If the FAA does not receive any response by January 4, 2027, the FAA will consider all 11 STCs as abandoned, and the FAA will proceed with the release of the requested data. This action is for the purpose of maintaining the airworthiness of an aircraft and enhancing aviation safety.

(Authority: 49 U.S.C. 44704(a)(5))

Issued on July 2, 2026.

Steven W. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2026–13723 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Request To Release Property at the Dare County Regional Airport Manteo, North Carolina (MQI)

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration is requesting public comment on a request by the Dare County Airport Authority (DCAA) on behalf of the Dare County, North Carolina, sponsor of the Dare County Regional Airport (MQI) to release 8.74 acres of land at the Dare County Regional Airport (MQI) from federal obligations. The release of the surplus property in question is necessary for the county to redevelop the property for its

continued operation as a county public works facility without the encumbrance of the federal deed restrictions on the surplus property in question.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this notice may be emailed to the FAA at the following email address: FAA/Memphis Airport District Office, Attn: Jamal R. Stovall, Lead Community Planner *Jamal.Stovall@faa.gov.*

In addition, one copy of any comments submitted to the FAA must be mailed or delivered to Mr. Stacy Ambrose, Director, Dare County Regional Airport at the following address: 410 Airport Road, PO Box 429, Manteo, NC 27954.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jamal R. Stovall, Lead Community Planner, Federal Aviation Administration, Memphis Airports District Office, 2600 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Suite 2250, Memphis, TN 38118–2482, *Jamal.Stovall@faa.gov.* The application may be reviewed in person at this same location, by appointment.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FAA invites public comment on the request to release all grant obligations for 8.74 acres of airport property at the Dare County Regional Airport (MQI), 410 Airport Road Manteo, NC 27954, under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 47107(h)(2).

The FAA determined that the request to release property at the Dare County Regional Airport (MQI) submitted by the Sponsor meets the procedural requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration and the release of this property does not and will not impact future aviation needs at the airport. The FAA may approve the request, in whole or in part, no sooner than thirty days after the publication of this notice.

The request consists of the following:

The DCAA has proposed to release (8.74 acres). The property was deeded to Dare County by the United States of America on July 15, 1947, through the War Assets Administrator under and pursuant to executive order 9689 dated January 31, 1946, and the powers and authority contained in the provisions of the surplus property act of 1944 as amended. The release of the surplus property (8.74 acres) in question is necessary for the county to redevelop the property for its continued operation as a county public works facility without the encumbrance of the federal deed restrictions on the surplus property in question.

Any person may inspect the request in person at the FAA office listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

In addition, any person may, upon request, inspect the request, notice and other documents germane to the request in person at the Dare County Regional Airport.

Issued in Memphis, Tennessee on June 30, 2026.

Rans D. Black,

Acting Manager, Memphis Airports District Office, Southern Region.

[FR Doc. 2026–13777 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA–2026–0793]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, Onondaga County, New York

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in coordination with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), is issuing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to solicit comments and advise the public, agencies, and stakeholders that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed Central New York Forward Project (the Project) located in the Towns of Cicero and Clay, Onondaga County, New York. The Project is located within the limits of NYS Route 31 between Oswego Road (County Road 57) and South Bay Road (County Road 208); US Route 11 between Mud Mill Road (County Road 17) and Factory Street; Interstate 81 (I–81) between the Bartell Road Interchange and the I–81 Exit 96/ Business Loop (BL–81) Interchange; and NYS Route 481 between its interchange with NYS Route 31 and US Route 11. The purpose of the Project is to address existing and reasonably foreseeable transportation needs, including multimodal, within the project limits on NYS Route 31, on US Route 11, and at the interchanges of NYS Route 31 with NYS Route 481 and Interstate 81. This NOI should be reviewed together with the NOI Additional Project Information document, which contains important details about the proposed project and compliments the information in this NOI. Persons and agencies who may be interested in or affected by the proposed project are encouraged to comment on the information in this NOI and the NOI Additional Project Information document. All comments received in response to this NOI will be considered, and any information presented herein may be revised in consideration of the comments.

DATES: Comments on this NOI and the NOI Additional Project Information document must be received through the methods below on or before August 14, 2026.

ADDRESSES: This NOI and the NOI Additional Project Information document are available in the docket referenced above at *www.regulations.gov* and on the project website located at *www.cnyforward.com.* The NOI and the Additional Project Information document will be mailed upon request. Interested parties are invited to submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Website:* For access to the documents, go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal location at *www.regulations.gov* or the project website located at *www.cnyforward.com.* Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* Federal Highway Administration, New York Division, Attention: Central New York Forward (PIN 3807.95), Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, 11A Clinton Avenue, Suite 719, Albany, New York 12207 or New York State Department of Transportation, Region 3, Attention: Central New York Forward Project Team (PIN 3807.95), State Office Building, 333 E Washington Street, Syracuse, NY 13202.
- *Email: cnyforward@dot.ny.gov.*

A summary of the comments received during the comment period will be included in the Draft EIS (DEIS).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard J. Marquis, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, New York Division, Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, 11A Clinton Avenue, Room 952, Albany, NY 12207, Telephone: (518) 431–4127, Email: *Rick.Marquis@dot.gov;* or Tim Talbot, Project Manager, New York State Department of Transportation, Region 3, State Office Building, 333 E Washington Street, Syracuse, NY 13202, Telephone: (315) 428–4347, Email: *Timothy.Talbot@dot.ny.gov.*

Interested persons can also be added to the project mailing list by sending a request to the Central New York Forward project email address referenced above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, as Federal lead agency, and the

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), as joint lead agency and project sponsor, are preparing an EIS for the Central New York Forward Project located in Onondaga County, New York, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), 23 U.S.C. 139, FHWA regulations implementing NEPA (23 CFR part 771), and all other applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. The Project is classified under NEPA as an action that requires an EIS. The Project is also classified as a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) non-Type II action under 17 NYCRR Part 15. To ensure that a full range of issues are addressed in the EIS and potential issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. The NOI Additional Project Information document provides additional details on the Purpose and Need for the proposed action, alternatives considered, and expected impacts on the human environment. The FHWA requests identification of potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the proposed action. The purpose of this request is to bring relevant comments, information, and analyses to the FHWA's attention, as early in the process as possible, to enable the agency to make maximum use of this information in decision making.

1. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Project is to address existing and reasonably foreseeable transportation needs, including multimodal, within the project limits on NYS Route 31, on U.S. Route 11, and at the interchanges of NYS Route 31 with NYS Route 481 and I–81. The objectives of the Project are to improve traffic operations and safety to accommodate and address potential traffic growth associated with planned economic development/land use changes; reduce commercial truck traffic on local residential streets and improve accommodations for truck traffic on the state highway system within the project limits; improve multimodal transportation features for public transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists within the project limits; and address the aging bridge infrastructure within the project limits. Detailed project need may be reviewed in the NOI Additional Project Information document available on the project website as noted in the **ADDRESSES** section. Comments on the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action are welcomed during the comment period on this NOI. The Purpose and Need may be revised based on consideration of public and agency comments received during the comment period for this NOI and during the scoping process for the DEIS.

2. Preliminary Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives the Environmental Impact Statement Will Consider

The range of reasonable alternatives for detailed study in the EIS is currently being evaluated and will be refined in consideration of agency and public comments received during the comment period on this NOI. In addition to the No Action (No Build) Alternative, NYSDOT has developed three potential alternatives (or design concepts) for the Project, based on a combination of various design elements developed to address one or more of the identified project needs within the project limits. A preliminary description of these potential alternatives is provided below. Additional information on each design element and the proposed potential alternatives are included in the NOI Additional Project Information document available for review on the project website, as noted in the **ADDRESSES** section.

The No Action (No Build) Alternative, which assumes no improvements other than those already programmed for construction and routine maintenance, will be carried forward for study in the DEIS as a baseline for comparison to the Build Alternative(s).

Concept 1 incorporates enhancements in multimodal accommodations; operational improvements to existing interchanges and roadways; and capacity upgrades along NYS Route 31 and US Route 11.

Concept 2 incorporates enhancements in multimodal accommodations; operational improvements to existing bridge infrastructure and roadways; capacity upgrades along US Route 11; and improved access between NYS Route 481 and Micron.

Concept 3 incorporates enhancements in multimodal accommodations; operational improvements to existing bridge infrastructure and roadways; capacity upgrades along NYS Route 31 and US Route 11; and improved access between NYS Route 481 and Micron.

The alternatives may be revised based on the consideration of public and agency comments. The range of reasonable alternatives to be carried forward and documented in the DEIS will be finalized after consideration of comments received during the comment period on this NOI and after conclusion of the scoping process. Comments on the range of alternatives are welcomed during the comment period on this NOI.

3. Brief Summary of Expected Impacts

The FHWA and NYSDOT have initiated data collection and agency coordination to identify the types of environmental, cultural, and socio-economic resources present in the project area and those likely to be impacted. Based on preliminary review of existing conditions within and in proximity to the project limits, the implementation of the Project could result in effects to the following:

- *Regional and local economies:* Residential, Parks/Open Space, Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial land uses exist within the project limits and serve as employment and commerce centers that are important to both the regional and local economies in the vicinity of the Project. An assessment of the Project's potential effects on regional and local economies will be conducted, as described in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.
- *Social effects:* Conditions will be reviewed by analyzing key indicators such as housing stability, access to schools and offices, and access to essential services within the study area. Data will be gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau, local government reports, and economic development agencies. An assessment of the Project's potential effects on social conditions will be conducted, as described in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.
- *Wetlands and surface waters:* State and Federal regulated freshwater wetlands and waterways are present in the vicinity of the Project, including, but not limited to, Oswego River, Seneca River, Oneida River, Mud Creek, Shaver Creek, and Youngs Creek. A surface water and wetland delineation will be conducted to identify all state-regulated wetlands and Waters of the U.S. within and adjacent to the project limits. An assessment of the Project's potential effects on wetlands and surface waters will be conducted, as described in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.
- *Floodplains:* Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service data show the presence of Zone AE floodplains south of the I–81/NYS Route 31 interchange. Zone AE is part of FEMA's Special Flood Hazard Area. These areas have a 1% chance of flooding in any given year. An evaluation of potential floodplain effects will be conducted, as described in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.

• *Endangered and threatened species:* Federally and State-listed endangered and/or threatened species have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the Project. Review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system preliminarily identified the following threatened, endangered, and/or candidate species as having the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project: Indiana bat; northern long-eared bat; tricolored bat; eastern massasauga, and monarch butterfly. A review of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Environmental Resource Mapper and Environmental Assessment Form Mapper database identified additional State-listed threatened and/or endangered species as having the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project. An assessment of the Project's potential effects on threatened and endangered species will be conducted, as described in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.

• *Historic properties:* A preliminary review of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) identified archaeological buffer areas within or immediately adjacent to the project limits as well as eligible buildings adjacent to the project limits. An Area of Potential Effects (APE) will be established for the Project, and an assessment will be conducted to identify the potential for effects on historic properties and archeological sensitive areas, as described in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.

• *Visual resources:* A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) will be conducted as part of the EIS to evaluate how the proposed transportation improvements would affect the visual environment. The methodology for conducting the VIA is outlined in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.

• *Air quality:* Onondaga County is classified as a maintenance area for carbon monoxide (CO) as of September 29, 1993. Onondaga County is classified as ''attainment'' for all other National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). An assessment of the Project's potential effects on air quality will be conducted, as described in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.

• *Traffic noise:* Noise sensitive receptors, such as residences, schools, medical facilities, daycare centers, hotels, and trails, are present within the vicinity of the Project. An assessment of the Project's potential effects on traffic noise will be conducted, as described in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.

• *Construction effects:* Construction of the Project has the potential to affect noise, air quality, traffic and transportation, local and regional economies, water quality, and other environmental resources. Construction effects would be temporary and would cease with the completion of construction. An assessment of the Project's potential construction-related effects will be conducted, as described in Section 7 of the NOI Additional Project Information document.

The analyses and evaluations conducted for the EIS will identify the expected effects; whether the anticipated effects would be adverse; and mitigation measures for adverse effects. Evaluations under section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (23 U.S.C. 138), 23 CFR part 774, and section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (54 U.S.C. 200302) will be prepared, and consultation under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. 306108), will be undertaken concurrently with the environmental review process. Comments on the potential impacts to be assessed in the DEIS are welcomed during the comment period on this NOI. The identification of impacts for analysis in the DEIS may be revised due to the consideration of public comments.

4. Anticipated Permits and Other Authorizations

Anticipated Federal and State permits and authorizations for the Central New York Forward Project include:

• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) for construction in the project area and potential impacts to Waters of the United States;

• USFWS consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1536), for potential impacts to federally listed threatened and/or endangered species;

• NYSDEC Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for potential impacts to water quality resulting from discharge into waters due to construction in the project area; as well as any other relevant New York State permits.

The USACE, USFWS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), U.S. Department of the Interior—National Park Service (NPS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), NYSDEC, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSAGM), New York State Department of State (NYSDOS), New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), New York State Parks (NYS Parks), and Empire State Development (ESD) were invited to participate as Cooperating Agencies for the Project.

Invited Participating Agencies include U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) CHIPS Office, Onondaga County, Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA), Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (Centro), Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC), Town of Cicero, Town of Clay, Oneida Indian Nation, and Onondaga Nation.

Coordination with Cooperating and Participating Agencies has begun as part of the pre-NOI scoping process and will continue throughout the environmental review process. The draft Project Purpose and Need and draft Permitting Timetable were distributed to the Cooperating Agencies on January 5, 2026, for review and concurrence. The Joint Agency Coordination Plan and Public Involvement Plan were distributed to the Cooperating Agencies for review on January 5, 2026. Refer to the NOI Additional Project Information document for additional information on coordination with Cooperating and Participating Agencies.

5. Schedule for the Decision-Making Process

The Project schedule will comply with 23 CFR 771.138(a)(1)(i), which requires that EISs be completed within 2 years (from the date of publication of the NOI to the date of issuance of the Record of Decision (ROD)), and 23 U.S.C. 139(d)(10), which requires that all authorization decisions necessary be completed by not later than 90 days after the date of the issuance of the ROD, in cooperation with the FHWA. A current draft of the Joint Agency Coordination Plan and Public Involvement Plan and project schedule are included in the NOI Additional Project Information document, which is available for review on the project website as noted in the **ADDRESSES** section.

The anticipated project schedule is outlined below:

• Public Scoping Meeting (July 2026)

• Project Scoping Report Publication (April 2027)

• Notice of Availability of the DEIS (November 2027)

• Public Hearing (December 2027)

- DEIS Comment Period (begins with the Notice of Availability of the DEIS) (November–December 2027)
- Issue Final EIS (FEIS) and ROD (July 2028)
- Issue all Project Permits and Authorization Decisions (if a Build Alternative is selected) (October 2028)

6. Description of the Public Scoping Process, Including Scoping Meetings

Scoping is an early and open process to determine the scope of issues for analysis in an EIS, including identifying the significant issues and eliminating from further study non-significant issues. During the scoping process, FHWA and NYSDOT will determine the range of reasonable alternatives to be studied in the DEIS for the Project, in consideration of public and agency input received. Persons and agencies who may be interested in or affected by the proposed project are encouraged to comment on the information in this NOI and the NOI Additional Project Information document during the comment period. A formal public scoping meeting will be held after publication of the NOI. Advanced notice of the date, time, and location of the public scoping meeting will be provided to the public through the project website and in public notices published in local newspapers, as described in Attachment A of the NOI Additional Project Information document. The intent of this meeting is to provide information and gather input on the Project during this early phase of the decision-making process. Interested parties will have the opportunity to submit formal comments at the meeting.

As described in the **ADDRESSES** section, the NOI Additional Project Information document is located on the project website. The NOI Additional Project Information document includes the complete Draft Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action; Extent of Analysis for Resources; Identification of Cooperating and Participating Agencies; Permitting Timetable; Joint Agency Coordination Plan and Public Involvement Plan; and Project Maps/Figures.

7. Request for Identification of Potential Alternatives, Information, and Analyses Relevant to the Proposed Action

With this Notice, the FHWA and NYSDOT request and encourage State, Tribal, and local government agencies, and the public, to review the NOI and NOI Additional Project Information document and submit comments. Specifically, agencies and the public are asked to identify and submit potential alternatives for consideration and information, such as anticipated significant issues or environmental impacts and analyses relevant to the proposed action, for consideration by the Lead and Cooperating Agencies in developing the DEIS. Any information presented herein, including the Purpose and Need, proposed potential alternatives and identification of impacts may be revised after consideration of the comments. The purpose of this request is to bring relevant comments, information, and analyses to the attention of FHWA as early in the process as possible to enable FHWA to make maximum use of this information in decision making. Comments must be received by August 14, 2026. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action, including comments relative to potential alternatives, information and analyses, should be directed to the FHWA and NYSDOT at the addresses provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

(Authority: 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.;* 23 U.S.C. 139; 23 CFR part 771.)

Richard J. Marquis,

Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026–13794 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2026–0037]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On April 23, 2026, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR. FRA received no comments in response to the notice.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find the particular ICR by selecting ''Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Joanne Swafford, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *joanne.swafford@dot.gov* or telephone: (757) 897–9908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On April 23, 2026, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting public comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. *See* 91 FR 21864. FRA received zero comments related to the proposed collection of information.

Before OMB decides whether to approve this proposed collection of information, it must provide 30 days' notice for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b) and (c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); *see also* 60 FR 44978, 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). The 30-day notice informs the regulated community of their opportunity to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to consider public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection

activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Railroad Police Officers.

OMB Control Number: 2130–0537.

Abstract: Title 49 CFR part 207 requires railroads to notify States of all designated police officers who perform duties in their respective jurisdictions who were commissioned as police officers by another State or States. This is necessary to verify proper police authority. In addition, if a railroad or police officer certified or commissioned as a police officer under the laws of a State or jurisdiction transfers primary employment or residence from the certifying or commissioning State to another State, the railroad police officer must apply to be certified or commissioned as a police officer under the laws of the State of new primary employment or residence not later than one year after the date of transfer.

Type of Request: Extension without change (with changes in estimates) of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Railroads and States.

Form(s): N/A.

Respondent Universe: 768 railroads.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 112.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 15 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: $1,352.85.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher S. Van Nostrand,

Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2026–13786 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2026–0038]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On April 23, 2026, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR. FRA received no comments in response to the notice.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find the particular ICR by selecting ''Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Joanne Swafford, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *joanne.swafford@dot.gov* or telephone: (757) 897–9908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On April 23, 2026, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting public comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. *See* 91 FR 21861. FRA received zero comments related to the proposed collection of information.

Before OMB decides whether to approve this proposed collection of information, it must provide 30 days' notice for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b) and (c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); *see also* 60 FR 44978, 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). The 30-day notice informs the regulated community of their opportunity to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to consider public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service.

OMB Control Number: 2130–0593.

Abstract: This collection of information is necessary to enable FRA to garner customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient and timely manner, consistent with its commitment to improving service delivery. The information collected from FRA's customers and stakeholders will help ensure users have an effective, efficient, and satisfying experience with FRA's programs. This feedback will provide insights into customer and stakeholder perceptions, experiences, and expectations; provide an early indicator of issues with service; and focus attention on areas where communication, training, or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. This collection will allow ongoing, collaborative, and actionable communications between FRA and its customers and stakeholders. It also allows feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on FRA's services will be unavailable.

Improving FRA's programs requires ongoing assessment of service delivery. FRA will collect, analyze, and interpret information gathered through this generic clearance to identify strengths and weaknesses of current services and make improvements to service delivery based on feedback. The solicitation of feedback will target areas such as timeliness, appropriateness, information accuracy, courtesy, service delivery efficiency, and issue resolution. FRA will assess responses to plan and inform efforts seeking to improve the quality of

service offered to customers and stakeholders, including the public. FRA will only submit a collection for approval under this generic clearance under the following conditions:

- The information gathered is only used internally for general service improvement and program management purposes and is not intended for public release.
- The information gathered is not used to inform substantially significant policy decisions.
- The information gathered will yield qualitative information. FRA will not design the collection or expect it to yield statistically reliable results or use it as though the results are generalizable to the study population.
- Participation in the collection is voluntary.
- The collection is low burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden hours per respondent) and is low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government.
- The collection is non-controversial and does not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies.
- The collection is directed to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program soon after receiving the collection.
- With the exception of information needed to provide remuneration for focus group participants and cognitive laboratory studies, personally identifiable information (PII) is collected only to the extent necessary and is not retained by FRA.

Type of Request: Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals and Households; Businesses and Organizations, State, Local, or Tribal Governments.

Form(s): N/A.

Respondent Universe: Railroad industry and the general public.

Frequency of Submission: Once per request.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 5,750.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 475 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: $26,982.24.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher S. Van Nostrand,

Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2026–13787 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2026–0595]

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) and its implementing regulations, this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the information collection and its expected burden. On April 23, 2026, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICR. FRA received no comments in response to the notice.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed ICR should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain.* Find the particular ICR by selecting ''Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments'' or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Joanne Swafford, Information Collection Clearance Officer, at email: *joanne.swafford@dot.gov* or telephone: (757) 897–9908.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. *See* 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On April 23, 2026, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting public comment on the ICR for which it is now seeking OMB approval. *See* 91 FR 21866. FRA received zero comments related to the proposed collection of information.

Before OMB decides whether to approve this proposed collection of information, it must provide 30 days' notice for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b) and (c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); *see also* 60 FR 44978, 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). The 30-day notice informs the regulated community of their opportunity to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to consider public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983 (Aug. 29, 1995). Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

Comments are invited on the following ICR regarding: (1) whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The summary below describes the ICR that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

Title: Grade Crossing Signal System Safety Regulations.

OMB Control Number: 2130–0534.

Abstract: To ensure safety, railroads are required to take certain actions when they are notified of highway-rail grade crossing (grade crossing) accidents resulting from warning system failures (activation failures).[1] These required actions are set forth in 49 CFR part 234. An activation failure is defined as the failure of a grade crossing warning system to indicate the approach of a train at least 20 seconds prior to the train's arrival at the crossing or to indicate the presence of a train occupying the crossing.

Specifically, railroads must report to FRA every impact between on-track railroad equipment and an automobile, bus, truck, motorcycle, bicycle, farm vehicle, or pedestrian at a highway-rail grade crossing involving an activation

[1] 56 FR 33722 (1991); 59 FR 50086 (1994).

failure. Notification must be provided to the National Response Center within 24 hours of occurrence at the stipulated telephone number. In addition, railroads must report to FRA each activation failure of a grade crossing warning system within 15 days. Form FRA F 6180.83, ''Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Warning System Activation Failure Report,'' must be used for this purpose and completed using the instructions printed on the form. With this information, FRA can identify the causes of activation failures and investigate them to determine whether periodic maintenance, inspection, and testing standards are effective.

Type of Request: Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Form(s): FRA F 6180.83.

Respondent Universe: 784 railroads.

Frequency of Submission: On occasion/monthly.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 60,252.

Total Estimated Annual Burden: 5,042 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Burden Hour Dollar Cost Equivalent: $420,107.77.

FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information that does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Christopher S. Van Nostrand,

Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2026–13785 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2026–0463]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Request for Comment; Crash Reporting Sampling System (CRSS), Non-Traffic Surveillance (NTS), and Special Study Data Collection

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

ACTION: Notice and request for comments on a request for extension with modification of a currently approved information collection.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. This document describes a currently approved collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval for extension with modification on NHTSA's Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS), Non-Traffic Surveillance (NTS), and Special Study Data Collection. A **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following information collection was published on March 19, 2026. Two comments were received.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before August 7, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection, including suggestions for reducing burden, should be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget at *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain*. To find this particular information collection, select ''Currently under Review—Open for Public Comment'' or use the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or access to background documents, contact Barbara Rhea, State Data Reporting Systems Division (NSA–120), (202) 560–6724, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room W43–313, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington DC 20590. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number (2127–0714).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), a Federal agency must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before it collects certain information from the public and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information by a Federal agency unless the collection displays a valid OMB control number. In compliance with these requirements, this notice announces that the following information collection request will be submitted OMB.

Title: Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS), Non-Traffic Surveillance (NTS), and Special Study Data Collection.

OMB Control Number: 2127–0714.

Form Number(s): NHTSA Form 2178, NHTSA Form 2174.

Type of Request: Extension with modification of a currently approved collection of information.

Type of Review Requested: Regular.

Requested Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from date of approval.

Summary of the Collection of Information: NHTSA is authorized by 49 U.S.C. 30182 and 23 U.S.C. 403 to collect data on motor vehicle traffic crashes to aid in the identification of issues and the development, implementation, and evaluation of motor vehicle and highway safety countermeasures to support efforts to reduce injuries and fatalities caused by motor vehicle crashes. The Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS) is a voluntary collection of data from police-reported crashes involving all types of motor vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists; this includes property damage only crashes as well as those resulting in injuries and fatalities. The Non-Traffic Surveillance (NTS) is a virtual data collection effort for collecting information about non-traffic crashes and non-crash incidents. The NTS data provides counts and details regarding fatalities and injuries that occur in non-traffic crashes and in non-crash incidents. This request for extension is a modification to the currently approved information collection under OMB Control No. 2127–0714 (current expiration Date: 8/31/2026). The current information collection estimated the annual burden to be 42,680 burden hours and this request for extension decreases the burden to 18,167 hours. This ICR is adjusted due to (a) reducing burden hour estimates for CRSS information collection to reflect current efficiencies, (b) remove the Non-Sampled Police Jurisdiction (PJ) Crash Count Special Study.

Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use of the Information: NHTSA is authorized by 49 U.S.C. 30182 and 23 U.S.C. 403 to collect data on motor vehicle traffic crashes to aid in the identification of issues and the development, implementation, and evaluation of motor vehicle and highway safety countermeasures to reduce fatalities and the property damages associated with motor vehicle crashes. Using this authority, NHTSA established the Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS), Non-Traffic Surveillance (NTS) and targeted Special Studies to collect data on motor vehicle crashes. These data collection efforts support the Department of Transportation's strategic goal for safety by working toward the elimination of transportation related deaths, injuries, and property damage.

CRSS

The CRSS is a voluntary collection of data from police-reported crashes involving all types of motor vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists; this includes property damage only crashes as well as those resulting in injuries and fatalities. CRSS obtains its data from a nationally representative probability sample selected from the estimated six million police-reported crashes that occur annually in the United States. By focusing attention on police-reported crashes, CRSS concentrates on the crashes of greatest concern to the highway safety community and the public.

CRSS depends on the voluntary participation and cooperation of State and law enforcement agencies. This allows NHTSA and its contractors to access the crash reports to review, list, and categorize the crashes. CRSS data is solely based on crash reports. The crash reports provide essential data: detailed information regarding the location of the crash, the vehicles, and the people involved. The crash reports are official local and State government forms that include the location of the crash and the pre-crash environment, explains the number and types of vehicles involved as well as describing the persons, injuries and other variables to express how the person was involved in the crash. No personally identifiable information is collected or released via the CRSS data. Selected crashes are released to the public in the annual CRSS file following quality control processes conducted by NHTSA. These data files are used by NHTSA and the public for highway safety research purposes.

NTS

The NTS is a data collection effort for collecting information about counts and details regarding fatalities and injuries that occur in non-traffic crashes and non-crash incidents. U.S. Congress required the Secretary of Transportation (NHTSA by delegation) to collect and maintain information about fatalities and injuries in nontraffic and non-crash incidents in the Cameron Gulbransen Kids Transportation Safety Act of 2007 (K.T. Safety Act) (Pub. L. 110–189). NHTSA designed and implemented the Non-Traffic Surveillance (NTS) study to fulfill the requirements of the K.T. Safety Act.

Non-traffic crashes are crashes that occur off a public trafficway (*e.g.,* private roads, parking lots, or driveways), and non-crash incidents are incidents involving motor vehicles but without a crash scenario such as, carbon monoxide poisoning and hypo/hyperthermia. The NTS non-traffic crash data are obtained through NHTSA's data collection efforts for the Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS),[1] the Crash Investigation Sampling System (CISS),[2] and the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).[3] NTS also includes data outside of NHTSA's own data collections. NTS' non-crash injury data is based upon emergency department records from a special study conducted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) All Injury Program. The NTS non-crash fatality data is derived from death certificate information from the Centers for Disease Control's National Vital Statistics System.

This ICR only seeks approval for the collection of data for NTS non-traffic crash data collection from the CRSS data collection effort. The burden for NTS is included across three information collections because the data is collected differently under each of NHTSA's three data collection efforts that feed into NTS. The CRSS and CISS data collection efforts obtain NTS applicable reports received from the sample sites during their normal data collection efforts for CRSS and CISS. The FARS data collection effort uncovers NTS applicable reports received from the State during their normal data collection activities for FARS. Therefore, portions of the burden for NTS are included in the ICRs for all three data collection efforts.

Special Studies

Initially, the previous ICR requested approval for two special studies to be considered.

—Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study

—PJ Frame Evaluation Special Study

Upon reevaluation, the statisticians determined that PJ Frame Evaluation Special Study would be the most beneficial for reducing underestimation in the CRSS estimates. Consequently, the Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study will no longer be utilized. However, information for both special studies is provided below for reference.

Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study

In addition to the CRSS data collection, NHTSA may require a special study to collect crash counts from the non-sampled CRSS jurisdictions. The data to be collected from the non-sampled PJs includes the crash counts by the crash report Strata—within in scope for CRSS, NTS applicable, or out of scope. Non-sampled PJs are defined as PJs that investigate motor vehicle crashes within the CRSS Primary Sampling Units (PSU) boundaries but are not selected for the CRSS data collection.

The majority of the CRSS estimates are sub-population totals and percentages. To make these estimates efficient, both CRSS PSU and PJ samples were selected using probability proportional to size sampling method. Here the PSU and PJ crash counts were used as the measure of size (MOS). On the other hand, CRSS PSU and PJ samples are panel samples—once selected they are used for many years' data collection. A drawback of using panel sample is the MOS may become outdated over time so that the estimates become less efficient. To mitigate this inadvertent effect, it is necessary to collect the crash counts of the non-sampled PJs periodically and use them together with the sampled PJ's crash counts to calibrate the PJ weights. The completion of the Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study supplements the CRSS data collection effort to reduce PJ frame coverage errors, sampling variance and potential PJ non-response bias. In addition, non-sampled counts are also used to update the PJ frame for future PJ sample re-selection.

There are various tasks associated with the non-sampled PJ crash counts, including working with the non-sampled PJs to gain access to crash reports. Then, for an entire data collection year, the collection of the non-sampled PJ crash counts would include the review of crash reports from the non-sampled PJs that are to be stratified and tallied.

PJ Frame Evaluation Special Study

Another special study NHTSA may require is the CRSS PJ frame evaluation. The current CRSS PJ sample was selected from a PJ frame created in 2016. However, the PJ frame is constantly changing: new PJs start operating, existing PJs are closed, multiple PJs are merged into one PJ, or one PJ splits into multiple PJs. The current CRSS PJ sample was selected from the 2016 PJ frame and the PJ weights were calculated accordingly. If the PJ frame has changed dramatically from the 2016 PJ frame, the CRSS PJ weights are no longer correct and the CRSS estimates may be biased. To prevent this, NHTSA

[1] The CRSS information collection is assigned OMB Control No. 2127–0714.

[2] The CISS information collection is assigned OMB Control No. 2127–0706.

[3] The FARS information collection is assigned OBM Control No. 2127–0006.

needs to evaluate the current PJ frame. Specifically, this includes the following:

1. The PJ frame evaluation should identify all the current PJs (including new PJs, closed PJs, any changes) that provide Police Crash Report (PCRs) in the non-Electronic Data Transfer (EDT) PSUs.

2. For all identified PJs in the PJ frame, collect six crash counts (total crashes, fatal crashes, injury crashes, pedestrian crashes, motorcycle crashes, and commercial motor vehicle crashes). These crash counts will be used as PJ measurement of size for PJ sample selection or PJ weight adjustment if needed.

The CRSS States have a combination of crash report access methods, which include but are not limited to the EDT, access to State websites and web service transfer. The EDT is a routine automated transfer of State crash data from a State agency to NHTSA to support crash data collection efforts for various crash report data collection systems. EDT reduces the level of effort need to share crash data to support NHTSA record-based and crash investigation studies.

Absent the data collected and disseminated via the CRSS, NTS and the two special studies, US DOT, State Highway Safety Offices, and other traffic safety analysts would not have information data crucial to problem identification and countermeasure development for motor vehicle crashes and non-traffic crashes, respectively.

60-Day Notice

A **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting public comments on the following information collection was published on March 19, 2026 (91 FR 13397).

During the comment period, NHTSA received a total of two comments from two stakeholders, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and Eric Hein.

The comments from IIHS were supportive in the extension of the CRSS program. They stated that they rely on the CRSS to conduct research to improve traffic safety. They mentioned two instances where CRSS data was utilized to help in vehicle safety research due to being national sample of motor vehicle traffic crashes. NHTSA thanks IIHS for their reassuring comments and examples of how the CRSS data is being utilized in their research to prevent motor vehicle traffic crashes. We recognize the importance of the CRSS data to advance vehicle safety research, and highway safety laws. NHTSA continues to work diligently to provide this data annually to our stakeholders.

The comment from Eric Hein was critical of CRSS and he requested numerous revisions to the ICR and data-collection practices for underride cases.

Mr. Hein's comment supports the proposed extension of the Crash Report Sampling System (CRSS) but highlights a critical flaw: underride crashes are systematically underreported in State police crash reports, leading to downward-biased national injury estimates. Mr. Heins argues this underreporting is a practical utility issue under the PRA. To fix this data deficiency at the source, the comment urges NHTSA to use its existing authorities—such as the Section 405(c) traffic records grant funding—to press States to adopt a dedicated underride data element or checkbox on police crash report forms. The comment also requests separate tracking for vulnerable road user underride crashes. In response to Mr. Hein's comments NHTSA has taken the following steps:

In March 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), in response to Congressional requests, published a report, Truck Underride Guards, issuing three recommendations to NHTSA on improved data collection of underride crashes and research on side underride guards. NHTSA has addressed all three recommendations and GAO has closed them. The first two were regarding data.

Based on the results of a 2020 internal study, NHTSA included updates to the coding of the vehicle underride/override data element in its crash databases for the years 2021 and later. The following updates are intended to improve the accuracy of vehicle underride/override reporting in NHTSA's crash databases.

—Simplified underride/override coding.
—Replaced the entire coding guidance about vehicle underride/override in the manuals.
—Enhanced training to the analysts/coders to note the difference in procedures with the combination of underride/override crashes versus a single occurrence for the vehicle performing the action.
—Developed new edit checks to improve the accuracy of underride/override coding by recording the action of both vehicles.

In his comments, Mr. Hein also mentioned a petition he submitted in April 2023.The petition asked NHTSA to update the underride data element in FARS and CRSS, update the FARS and CRSS manuals to provide a standardized definition of underride, require an underride/override checkbox in State police crash reports, and provide training to FARS analyst and CRSS coders and local police departments, NHTSA published a denial of the petition in April 2025 because the agency lacks the statutory authority to mandate specific data fields or formats on individual State crash report forms.

Furthermore, in February 2023, NHTSA published a draft 6th edition of MMUCC that included the vehicle underride/override element for public comment. The 6th edition of MMUCC was finalized and first published in January 2024 to incorporate the Vehicle Underride or Override data element.

NHTSA has made concerted efforts and updates to how vehicle underride/override crashes are collected in CRSS. NHTSA has successfully addressed and closed three 2019 GAO recommendations by updating its crash databases, coding guidance, and analyst training to significantly improve underride reporting accuracy. In addition, NHTSA formally incorporated the vehicle underride/override data element into the finalized 6th edition of the Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) in January 2024.

Affected Public: Various PJ and State Agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,367.

Frequency: Annual.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 18,167.

Burden for CRSS and NTS

Within the 30 States or 60 CRSS PSUs there are PJs, from which a CRSS sampler must obtain crash reports for listing, categorization, and sampling. Currently, 54 PSUs provide NHTSA data electronically—through EDT, State website access, or web service portal. For one State, the crash reports are obtained through EDT and manually since not all crashes are reported through EDT. A total of 6 PSUs, or 37 local PJs, where crash reports collection is conducted in the field using a combination of electronic and manual methods as dictated by the sample PJ's crash report collection methods. The manual PJs required field samplers which incur an increased burden due to the labor-intensive administrative practices and privacy protections associated with manually accessing the crash reports.

The annual burden estimate detailed in Table 1 is produced by identifying the crash report access method for each PSU and PJ and assigning the appropriate burden hours for that method as outlined below. Since NTS data is collected with CRSS data, the burden estimates also include NTS burdens.

• EDT Maintenance—For PSUs providing crash report through EDT, the burden is estimated at five hours annually. This accounts for yearly updates to programming needed to successfully transmit data, such as updating data structures if new data elements are added or any changes to the state made to their crash report or databases.

• State Website—User Access Only: For PSUs providing crash reports via a state repository/website or database, the burden is estimated at 10 hours annually per PSU and PJ in the State. This represents time to process user account requests, establish credentials, and routine maintenance of the State's data repositories.

• State Website—User Access and Additional Administrative Functions: For PSUs providing crash reports directly to NHTSA via web service or where the State employees provide user access accounts in addition to regularly searches for crash reports, compiles the lists of crashes to send to NHTSA monthly, the burden is estimated at 60 hours annually per PSU and PJ in the State. This represents implementation, data transfer monitoring, and communications with NHTSA and its contractors.

• For PJs providing crash reports to NHTSA via manual crash report access methods (*i.e.,* copying crash reports and mailing them, and searching for recently completed crash reports and uploading crash reports to secure email links), the burden is estimated at 470 hours annually per PJ. This represents—but is not limited to—maintaining a law enforcement presence while the crash reports are being reviewed, and/or providing resources to the CRSS sampler in order to access the crash reports. This is the most labor extensive access type due to the administrative burden and the additional processes required to protect PII. Other local PJs may photocopy crash reports and FedEx to the contractors or download electronic crash reports to submit electronically via secure email or thumb drive monthly. This total also accounts for States that have monthly manual processes to identify crash reports in their state databases, compile crash reports and share with NHTSA.

This hourly burden was calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' mean hourly wage estimate for Court, Municipal, and License Clerks (Standard Occupational Classification #43–4031)[4] from May 2024 of $24.61. Therefore, NHTSA estimates the hourly wage associated with the estimated 17,820 burden hours to be $438,550.20 (17,820 hours × $24.61 per hour). The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that for State and local government workers, wages represent 61.5% of total compensation.[5] Therefore, the total cost of burden associated with this collection is estimated to be $713,089. 76 ($438,550.20 ÷ 0.6150).

TABLE 1—CRSS AND NTS DATA COLLECTION BURDEN HOURS

Access method	Hours per jurisdiction (PJ or States)	Number of respondents (PJ or States)	Total hours
EDT (Maintenance)	5	14 States	70
State Website (user access only)	10	10 States and 2PJs	120
State Website (user access and additional administrative functions)	60	1 States	60
Web Service (user access and States query and compile info)	60	1 State and 2 PJs	180
Mixed Manual	470	37 PJs	17,390
Grand Total		67 Respondents	17,820

Annually, there is the potential to reselect PJs, which is dependent on maintenance of cooperation and access to crash reports. If cooperation is lost, replacement jurisdictions are sought. Regardless, the PJ frame is updated, and the PJ sample is reselected every year. However, the changes in the sampled PJs are minimal because Pareto sampling method is used for PJ sample selection. Any changes to the PJ frame could impact the reported burden rates. For more details, please refer to Pages 29–32 of the Technical Report: *https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812706.*

Special Studies

The CRSS special studies are important to evaluate the PJ frame of the CRSS PSUs, determine PJ weights and measure of size for the CRSS PJ sample selection. For NHTSA to accomplish its mission, motor vehicle crash data must be of the highest quality which includes sampling from an accurate PJ frame to select a nationally representative sample of crashes.

Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study (This Study Is Removed From This ICR)

The burden calculation for the Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study is difficult to determine. Each burden calculation is associated with the agreed upon crash report access method for sample sites. For non-sampled PJs we have no established relationship nor is it known which type of access to crash report is feasible. Most importantly, Non-sampled Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Studies are conducted on an ad-hoc basis and not implemented every year. We estimate that the Non-sampled Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study will at most be conducted once in the next three-year cycle. Table 2 illustrates the burden hours for this special study by access method.

EDT has been removed from the table because CRSS samples from the entire county for EDT States, therefore there is no distinction between the non-sampled and sampled PJs. This is an added benefit to EDT implementation as we get an accurate assessment of the PSU frame by CRSS strata. State websites with user access have non-sampled PJs however, there is no added burden because the initial access granted is at the state level. State website with user access and additional administrative functions provide NHTSA data at the county level, which includes both sampled and non-sampled PJs, thus there is no additional burden to the state. Webservice agreements also provide data at the county level, thus there is no

[4] *See* May 2023 National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, 43–4031—Court, Municipal, and License Clerks, available at Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (accessed December 23, 2025).

[5] *See* Table 1. Employer Costs for Employee Compensation by ownership for state and local government workers, available at *https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm* (accessed December 23, 2025).

additional burden to the state to provide non-sampled crash reports. States noted as having manual methods only account for the sampled PJs. Without established cooperation, NHTSA can't forecast individual PJ's access methods for the purposes of the burden calculation. Therefore, NHTSA assumes that all the non-sampled PJs within the PSUs using the mixed manual method will also use this method. Thus, NHTSA estimates 136 PJs will participate in the non-sampled special study using the mixed manual method. The maximum burden for the Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study's estimated burden is 63,920 with the possibility of reduction with cooperative agreements finalized. If the Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study were to be collected once in the next three year, dividing the 63,920 total burden hours by three would yield an annual burden of 21,307 hours.

After the statisticians revaluated the Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study, it was concluded that the PJ frame evaluation and the updated six crash counts would be the most beneficial to reduce underestimation in the CRSS estimates. Thus, the Non-Sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study will be no longer utilized. The new burden hours will no longer reflect this special study in Table 4.

TABLE 2—NON-SAMPLED PJ CRASH COUNT SPECIAL STUDY BURDEN HOURS

Access method	Hours per jurisdiction	Number of respondents jurisdiction (PJ or States)	Total hours
Manual	470	136	21,307 (470 * 136/3)
Grand Total		136	21,307

PJ Frame Evaluation Special Study

The activities associated with PJ frame evaluation special study include identifying the in-scope PJs and collecting six crash count from the in-scope PJs. NHTSA estimates there are total 40 non-EDT PSUs and about 1,300 PJs in those non-EDT PSUs. NHTSA anticipates approximately 16 minutes (0.25 hours) for each PJ to prepare the six crash counts. NHTSA estimates the total number of hours of response burden is about 347 hours.

TABLE 3—PJ FRAME EVALUATION SPECIAL STUDY BURDEN HOURS

PJ frame evaluation	Hours per jurisdiction (minutes)	Number of respondents jurisdiction (PJ)	Total hours
Manual	16	1,300	347 (16/60 * 1,300)
Grand Total		1,300	347

The total cost of burden associated with PJ frame evaluation special study is $13,885.64 (347 hours × $24.61 per hour/.6150 compensation) using the same mean hourly wage estimate for Court, Municipal and license clerks and estimates that for State and local government workers, wages represent 61.50% of total compensation.[6]

The total annual burden hours for the CRSS, and NTS and is estimated at 18,167 (17,820 + 347) for a data collection year when all studies are implemented.

The total cost of burden associated with this collection is estimated to be $726,975.40 ($713,089.76 + $13,885.64).

TABLE 4—SUMMARY OF BURDEN CHANGES

Information collections	Number of respondents	Previous burden hours	New burden hours	Difference	Reasoning
CRSS	67	21,040	17,820	−3,220	Increased efficiencies with more States participating in EDT and Robotic Process Automation (RPA).
NTS	0	0	0	0	Included with CRSS burden above.
Non-sampled PJ Crash Count Special Study.	0	21,307	0	−21,307	This special study is removed from the data collection.
PJ Frame Evaluation Special Study.	1,300	333	347	14	Estimated number is increased to account for newly identified in-scope PJs during evaluation.
Total	1,367	42,680	18,167	−24,513	

Estimated Total Annual Burden Cost: $0.

There are no additional costs to respondents participating.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspects of this

[6] *See* Table 1. Employer Costs for Employee Compensation by ownership for state and local government workers, available at *https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm* (accessed December 23, 2025).

information collection, including (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.,* permitting electronic submission of responses.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; 49 CFR 1.49; and DOT Order 1351.29A.

Rajesh Subramanian,

Acting Associate Administrator, National Center for Statistics and Analysis.

[FR Doc. 2026–13769 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

UNIFIED CARRIER REGISTRATION PLAN

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: July 9, 2026, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

PLACE: The meeting will be accessible via conference call and via Zoom Meeting and Screenshare. Any interested person may call (i) 1–929–205–6099 (US Toll) or 1–669–900–6833 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 990 8940 2733, to listen and participate in this meeting. The website to participate via Zoom Meeting and Screenshare is *https://kellen.zoom.us/meeting/register/Z4ODMlRCSXO6AoRSWJboug.*

STATUS: This meeting will be open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: The Unified Carrier Registration Plan Finance Subcommittee (the ''Subcommittee'') will continue its work in developing and implementing the Unified Carrier Registration Plan and Agreement. The subject matter of this meeting will include:

Proposed Agenda

I. Call to Order—UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair

The UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair will welcome attendees, call the meeting to order, call roll for the Subcommittee, confirm whether a quorum is present, and facilitate self-introductions.

II. Verification of Publication of Meeting Notice—UCR Executive Director

The UCR Executive Director will verify the publication of the meeting notice on the UCR website and distribution to the UCR contact list via email followed by the subsequent publication of the notice in the **Federal Register**.

III. Review and Approval of Subcommittee Agenda and Setting of Ground Rules—UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair

For Discussion and Possible Subcommittee Action

The agenda will be reviewed, and the Subcommittee will consider adopting the agenda.

Ground Rules

Subcommittee action only to be taken in designated areas on agenda.

IV. Review and Approval of Subcommittee Minutes From the February 19, 2026, Meeting—UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair

For Discussion and Possible Subcommittee Action

Draft minutes from the February 19, 2026, Subcommittee meeting will be reviewed. The Subcommittee will consider taking action to approve.

V. 2027 Registration Fee Update—UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair and Executive Director

The UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair and Executive Director will provide an update on the 2027 registration fee recommendation.

VI. 2028 Registration Year Fee Recommendation—UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair, and Executive Director

For Discussion and Possible Subcommittee Action

The UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair and Executive Director will provide an update on the 2028 Registration Year fee recommendation. The Subcommittee may recommend to the UCR Plan Board of Directors a fee structure for the 2028 UCR Registration Year.

VII. Revenues From 2025 and 2026 Registration Fees—UCR Depository Manager

The UCR Depository Manager will review the revenues received from the 2025 and 2026 plan year registration fees.

VIII. 2025 External Financial Audit Update—UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair and UCR Depository Manager

The UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair and UCR Depository Manager will provide an update on UCR's 2025 External Financial Audit.

IX. Management Report—UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair and UCR Depository Manager

The UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair and UCR Depository Manager will provide an update on UCR finances and related topics.

X. Other Business—UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair

The UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair will call for any other items Subcommittee members would like to discuss.

XI. Adjourn—UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair

The UCR Finance Subcommittee Chair will adjourn the meeting.

The agenda will be available no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern daylight time, July 1, 2026, at: *https://plan.ucr.gov.*

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Elizabeth Leaman, Chair, Unified Carrier Registration Plan Board of Directors, (617) 305–3783, *eleaman@board.ucr.gov.*

Alex B. Leath,

Chief Legal Officer, Unified Carrier Registration Plan.

[FR Doc. 2026–13768 Filed 7–6–26; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–YL–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Health Systems Research (HSR) Scientific Merit Review Board

Federal Register Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10, that a meeting of the HSR Scientific Merit Review Board will be held September 3, 2026, from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), via Webex. The meeting will be open to the public from 11–11:15 a.m. EST. The remainder of the meeting, from 11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. EST, will be closed to the public and used for scientific review and discussion, examination of, and reference to the research applications. Discussions will involve staff and consultant critiques of

research proposals. Discussions will also cover the scientific merit of each proposal and the qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals. Therefore, portions of the Board meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(4), (6), and (9)(B).

The objective of the Board is to provide for the impartial selection of the most meritorious research projects for support by VA research funds and to offer advice for research program officials on program priorities and policies. The Board ensures, through its recommendations, the high quality and mission relevance of VA's legislatively mandated Office of Research and Development's (ORD) HSR portfolio.

The Board evaluates and advises the Acting Deputy Chief Research and Development Officer (Deputy CRADO) for Investigators, Scientific Review, and Management, and the Acting ORD CRADO, on the scientific and technical merit, mission relevance, and protection of human subjects of health systems research proposals. The Board does not consider grants, contracts, or other forms of extramural research.

Members of the public may attend the open portion of the meeting from 11–11:15 a.m. EST via Webex (in listen-only mode, as the time-limited agenda does not allow for public comment or presentations). To attend the open portion of the meeting, the public may dial the Webex phone number (1–833–558–0712) and enter the meeting access code (2823 124 9657).

Written comments from members of the public should be sent to Tiffin Ross-Shepard, Designated Federal Officer, HSR, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, or to *Tiffin.Ross-Shepard@va.gov,* at least five (5) days before the meeting. The written public comments will be shared with the Board members. The public may not attend the closed portion of the meeting.

Dated: July 2, 2026.

LaTonya L. Small,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026–13734 Filed 7–7–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

FEDERAL REGISTER

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Part II

Department of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Parts 192 and 195

Pipeline Safety: Repair Criteria for Hazardous Liquid and Gas Transmission Pipelines; Proposed Rule

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Parts 192 and 195

[Docket No. PHMSA–2025–0019]

RIN 2137–AF44

Pipeline Safety: Repair Criteria for Hazardous Liquid and Gas Transmission Pipelines

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: PHMSA proposes to modernize and to clarify the anomaly response criteria in the Federal pipeline safety regulations for gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines. Driven by twenty years of technological development, modern engineering concepts allow operators to identify, schedule, and remediate pipeline anomalies more effectively and in a less costly manner. PHMSA proposes incorporating these improved safety practices into its regulations by finalizing certain safety improvements advanced in recent rulemakings for gas transmission pipelines and extending those changes to hazardous liquid pipelines. In addition, PHMSA proposes certain non-substantive revisions to its gas and hazardous liquid repair regulations to improve compliance.

DATES: Submit comments by September 8, 2026.

A public meeting of PHMSA's statutory advisory committees will be held on a date to be announced in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments by any of the following methods, identifying docket number PHMSA–2025–0019 at the top of the first page:

- On *https://www.regulations.gov,* follow instructions to ''submit a comment.''
- By mail or hand delivery to Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001. Hand delivery is available to this address between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays). Include two copies if submitting by mail and include a self-addressed and stamped postcard to receive confirmation of receipt.
- By fax to Docket Management System at (202) 493–2251.

Comments may be viewed at *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/PHMSA-2025-0019.* Comments are posted without changes or edits, including any personal information provided. DOT's privacy statement can be reviewed at *https://www.dot.gov/privacy.* As required by the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(b)(4)), a plain language summary of the proposed rule is also available in section I.B, and this proposal will be available online on the rulemaking docket.

Confidential Business Information (CBI): You may designate a comment as CBI if your comment contains commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private and that you actually treat as private by sending to Sayler Palabrica, at the contact information listed below, the following: (1) the original document with each page containing CBI marked as ''confidential;'' (2) a redacted copy with the CBI deleted; and (3) an explanation of why the information you are submitting is CBI. *See* 49 CFR 190.343. Any comment not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sayler Palabrica, Standards and Rulemaking Division, by phone at (202) 744–0825 or by email at *sayler.palabrica@dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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A. Background
B. Summary of Proposal
C. Cost Benefit Summary
II. Background
A. Regulatory Origin
B. Technological Development
C. Modernization in PHMSA Regulations
III. Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
IV. Discussion of the Proposal
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B. Response Criteria
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i. Anomaly Evaluation for Dents by the Dent ECA
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D. Material Properties and Records
i. Toughness and Material Property Values
ii. Material Properties for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines
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E. Response, Repair, and Remediation Requirements
i. Discovery
ii. Non-HCA Hazardous Liquid Response Requirements
iii. Temporary Pressure Reduction
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V. Section-by-Section Analysis
VI. Legal Authority
A. Pipeline Safety Laws
B. Section 60102(b) Practicability Factors
VII. Regulatory Analysis
VIII. List of Subjects

I. Executive Summary

A. Background

In the early 2000s, PHMSA created integrity management (IM) programs for gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines. Both IM programs included criteria for responding to anomalies.[1] These requirements—which today apply approximately to 41 percent of hazardous liquid and less than 18 percent of gas mileage in high consequence areas (HCAs) and other higher risk locations—used generic depth measurements that did not account for the specific anomaly or the operating parameters of the pipeline.[2] That approach has forced costly repair of pipelines in good serviceable condition, interrupting service for consumers and disrupting other proactive operational activities.

Technology has dramatically advanced in the quarter of a century since the adoption of the IM program. In-line inspection (ILI) tools can now detect more pipeline anomalies with a higher degree of certainty, even interacting threats and previously unreliably detected threats.[3] Models can depict an entire pipeline with the impact of the anomaly and calculate the critical strain. All of this can be used to determine a pipeline's predicted failure pressure or fatigue life.

In 2022, PHMSA amended its gas pipeline response criteria to incorporate some of these modern, engineering-based concepts.[4] In this proceeding, PHMSA proposes to complete that work

[1] *Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas,* 68 FR 69778 (Dec. 15, 2003); *Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas (Repair Criteria),* 67 FR 1650 (Jan. 14, 2002).

[2] Though a smaller portion of gas transmission pipelines are in an HCA than hazardous liquid pipelines, the gas response schedule also applies to Class 3, Class 4, and other moderate consequence areas with a high operating stress level. 49 CFR 192.710(a). The IM program for hazardous liquid pipelines applies to pipelines in, or that could affect, an HCA. § 195.452(a).

[3] Rosen USA (Rosen), Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2017–0151–0025, at 1 (Sept. 28, 2018); *see supra* section II.B.

[4] *Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines: Repair Criteria, Integrity Management Improvements, Cathodic Protection, Management of Change, and Other Related Amendments,* 87 FR 52224 (Aug. 24, 2022) (2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule).

and to extend the same concepts to hazardous liquid pipelines.

B. Summary of Proposal

Element	Proposal
Response schedule—gas	The anomaly response tiers in 49 CFR § 192.714(d) are denoted as immediate, near-term, and other conditions. Near-term is one year under IM and two years otherwise. The duplicative schedule at § 192.933 is removed to allow one central location for the gas response schedule.
Response schedule—hazardous liquid	The same three anomaly response tiers apply for hazardous liquid IM pipelines. Near-term response is one-year. The hazardous liquid response schedule is placed in its own section at § 195.453 as part of the IM program.
Response criteria—gas	Editorial revisions are proposed to improve the clarity of the § 192.714 response requirements. Criteria use a failure pressure ratio (FPR) rather than spelling out 'predicted failure pressure times the maximum allowable operating pressure.' Substantively, for gas response: (1) a modern engineering-based criterion is added for the immediate response of cracks at an FPR of 1.1 and below; (2) the immediate crack depth criterion is revised to 70 percent or more; (3) immediate response to preferential seam corrosion is revised to an FPR of 1.1 and below; and (4) the dent interacting threat immediate criterion adds an exception for non-mechanical metal loss under 10 percent.
Response criteria—hazardous liquid	Modern engineering-based metrics are added alongside the existing depth-based measurements for hazardous liquid response criteria. A consistent FPR of 1.1 and below is used for the immediate response of metal loss and cracks, with near-term response required at FPRs of 1.39 and below. On depth measurements, immediate response is added at 70 percent depth for cracks, with near-term response of cracks at 50 percent depth and higher. For dents, immediate response is required for interacting threats from mechanical damage (mechanical corrosion, cracking, gouging, and a stress riser) at any orientation, near-term response is required for all dents that were previously listed as 180-day conditions, while the seam corrosion provision is targeted to preferential metal loss. A dent ECA can be used to calculate an alternative timeline for all dent criteria. Finally, hazardous liquid pipelines not subject to IM should respond following API RP 1160.
Anomaly evaluation	Update § 192.712 and create a similar provision at § 195.415: (a) Anomaly evaluation must be conducted by a subject matter expert and include uncertainties, like tool tolerance. (b) Metal loss analysis can use API 579 and Psqr, in addition to ASME B31G, R–STRENG, and other models demonstrated to provide comparable results. (c) A dent ECA is proposed with a reassessment safety factor of two for gas pipelines and five for hazardous liquid pipelines. (d) Crack analysis may use technically accepted fracture mechanic methods, including API 579 Level II or III, Modified Ln-Sec, and Raju-Newman equations. The *in-situ* crack exam provision is relocated to this paragraph. (e) Toughness can be derived by Charpy v-notch or other valid testing methods. The default toughness values are updated and the methods to obtain toughness and other material properties for the analysis are extended to part 195, including adding § 195.407 to allow collection of material property records.
Discovery	A consistent anomaly discovery definition continues to apply from an operator having adequate information within an 180-day period. Expedited response to immediate conditions is required from preliminary ILI results, with discovery otherwise following the final ILI results.
Temporary pressure reduction	Two consistent options for temporary pressure reductions taken until gas and hazardous liquid pipelines are permanently repaired: a 20 percent reduction or reduction to a pressure below the predicted failure pressure times a design factor.
General repair requirements	The disperse general repair requirements are editorially revised and centralized at §§ 192.711 and 195.422 to encourage compliance.

C. Cost-Benefit Summary

PHMSA estimates that the proposed rule would generate substantial cost savings of approximately $390 million each year. Gas transmission pipeline operators are expected to experience between $214.6 and $241.7 million in cost savings each year, with hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipeline operators expected to experience cost savings of approximately $148.5 million in cost savings each year (both at a three percent discount rate). By accelerating responses to critical threats while eliminating unnecessary excavations, the proposal is also expected to enhance pipeline safety, to benefit worker safety, to minimize detrimental environmental impacts, to alleviate economic costs associated with congestion caused by work-zones from excavations, and to improve regulatory certainty and clarity for operators. The Preliminary Regulatory Impact Analysis (PRIA) provided in the rulemaking docket includes additional information regarding the costs, cost-savings, and benefits of the proposed rule.

II. Background

A. Regulatory Origin

As originally adopted, the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations generally required gas [5] and hazardous liquid [6] pipeline operators to repair safety impediments within a reasonable time.[7] In the early 2000s, PHMSA established more detailed anomaly response schedules in adopting the IM program requirements for hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines.[8] The IM rules required operators to assess the integrity of higher-risk pipelines in HCAs at certain intervals, *i.e.,* at least once every five years for hazardous liquid and at least once every seven years for gas transmission pipelines. The IM rules also included response criteria in §§ 192.933 and 195.452(h) that applied to anomalies detected during these assessments. This led to specific response requirements for anomalies discovered in HCAs

[5] ''Gas'' pipeline is used throughout this document to refer to pipelines regulated under part 192, which can be natural gas and any ''flammable gas, or gas which is toxic or corrosive.'' 49 CFR 192.3 (definition of ''gas'').

[6] ''Hazardous liquid'' pipeline is used throughout this document to refer to pipelines regulated under part 195, which includes hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipelines. § 195.2 (definition of ''pipeline''). In addition to carbon dioxide, ''hazardous liquid'' includes ''petroleum, petroleum products, anhydrous ammonia, and ethanol or other non-petroleum fuel, including biofuel, which is flammable, toxic, or would be harmful to the environment if released in significant quantities.'' § 195.2 (definition of ''hazardous liquid'').

[7] *Establishment of Minimum Standards,* 35 FR 13248, 13274 (Aug. 19, 1970) (codifying §§ 192.711 and 192.713); *Transportation of Liquids by Pipeline—Requirements for the Design, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance,* 34 FR 15473, 38369 (Oct. 4, 1969); *Transportation of Liquids by Pipeline,* 46 FR 38357, 38369 (July 27, 1981) (recodifying § 195.401 and the part 195 regulations to reflect the enactment of the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96–129)).

[8] *Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas,* 68 FR 69778 (Dec. 15, 2003); *Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas (Repair Criteria),* 67 FR 1650 (Jan. 14, 2002). *See also Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas (Hazardous Liquid Operators With 500 or More Miles of Pipeline),* 65 FR 75378 (Dec. 1, 2000) (promulgating rest of hazardous liquid IM).

compared with longstanding generic requirements to make repairs as needed.

The original response criteria in the IM rules reflected the limited assessment technology and evaluation methods available at the time. Relying on traditional measurements, the criteria defined anomalies by location (*e.g.,* top- vs. bottom-side dents) or depth (*e.g.,* a crack at 50 percent depth). The response times for these criteria largely were not based on the anomaly's remaining safe life.[9] Though ILI tools could reliably measure the maximum depth of certain anomaly types, tool technologies and analytical methods were not sufficiently mature to produce high-resolution anomaly profiles reliably, to detect and classify interacting threats (such as selective seam weld corrosion and dents with interacting features), or to predict the remaining life of cracks and dents.

By looking solely at measured anomaly size, the first IM response criteria overlooked the interaction between an anomaly and the specific characteristics of the pipeline (*e.g.,* size, material, and operating conditions), both of which must be considered to understand the likely impact on integrity and serviceability. As a result, the response margins in the original IM rules required remediation of anomalies in advance of what would otherwise be necessary to maintain pipeline integrity in many cases.

B. Technological Development

Pipeline technology has improved dramatically since the adoption of the anomaly response criteria in the original IM rules. Modern ILI tools can detect a wider range of defects with greater accuracy, particularly when compared to the technology available in the early 2000s. Today, commercially available ILI tools can detect pipe body crack sizing with 90 percent certainty to one millimeter via an Electromagnetic Acoustic Transducer (EMAT) tool,[10] and axial Magnetic Flux Leakage (MFL–A) tools can size corrosion depth with 80 percent certainty to 0.1 times the wall thickness.[11] Much of this technological improvement can be attributed to an increase in the number of sensors on modern ILI tools, which has improved both accuracy and probability of detection.[12] For example, sensors on crack ILI tools have increased from 480 in 2000 to over 1000 on today's tools, while MFL ILI corrosion tools have increased from 240 sensors in 2000 to about 1250 today. This corresponds to an improvement from +/− 10 percent wall thickness depth accuracy and 80 percent probability of detection in tools used in 2000 to +/− 0.03 inch and 90 percent probability of detection in tools used today.[13] Further, with dents, ILI tools now can detect a dent as small as 0.2 percent of wall thickness on large diameter pipelines.[14] Together, these advances have increased the probability of detection, probability of identification, and accuracy of sizing of pipeline anomalies.

The experience gained by deploying ILI to more pipelines has led to further advancements in the detection and modelling of increasingly complex defect types.[15] New ILI tools are being designed and developed to assess anomalies with increasing accuracy and to address threats that could not previously be detected on a reliable basis. For example, to address hard to detect defects on double submerged arc welded pipe, Colonial Pipeline and NDT Global collaborated to create a multi-diameter and multi-threat tool that can be adjusted in the field for the size and threat to the pipeline.[16] Preferential metal loss, once thought not capable of reliable detection by ILI,[17] can now be assessed using a tool train that combines MFL–C corrosion and EMAT crack tools. Inertial Mapping Units have been updated to sub-meter accuracy with speed control, offering accurate measurement of bending strain caused by geohazards or construction activity through comparison to past tool runs.[18]

As ILI tools and modeling have advanced, critical strain levels and predicted failure pressure have become the preeminent, technically based option for evaluating anomalies to ensure pipeline safety. Until the 1970s, operators relied on burst tests, manufacture specifications, and Barlow's formula to predict potential failures. From the 1980s through the 2000s, operators began to use metal loss analysis to assess corrosion, starting with B31G and then Effective Area Method computer software like Remaining Strength (RSTRENG), which allows for more accurate representation to calculate predicted failure pressure.[19] Analytical methods have continued to

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[9] Consistent with the technology of the time, remaining strength calculation criteria were limited to metal loss.

[10] Lacking precision when introduced in the mid-2000s, EMAT tools can now reliably detect smaller cracks with greater accuracy due to innovation in tool sizing and sensor count. Kinder Morgan, *Technical Justification for Use of EMAT as an Alternative Technology for Integrity Assessment of SCC in HCAs,* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0773 at 7–9 (Aug. 2019) (describing operator's development of EMAT ILI assessment and continued advancement of the technology over the 2010s). Previously, cracking was indicated by ILI run and not sized. Jeff Aron et al., *Development of an EMAT In-Line Inspection System For Detection, Discrimination, and Grading of Stress Corrosion Cracking in Pipelines* (Feb. 2005), *https://www.netl.doe.gov/sites/default/files/2018-03/FG013105.PDF* (''Cracks of 30 [percent] or greater of the wall thickness in depth were imaged. Their depths and lengths could be estimated from the data.'').

[11] *See, e.g.,* Rosen, *RoCorr MFL–A Service: In-line Ultra-High-Resolution Metal Loss Detection and Sizing* (2024), *https://contenthub.rosen-group.com/api/public/content/729e05931aca4953ac0a47dbdf2c6566?v=f9378e13;* Rosen, *RoCD EMAT–C Service: In-line High-Resolution Detection and Sizing of Axial Cracks* (2024), *https://contenthub.rosen-group.com/api/public/content/7e9f40578f924917a4403fa7fc5ba41e?v=0071d845.*

[12] Colonial Pipeline Co. (Colonial), Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 7 (July 21, 2025).

[13] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 7.

[14] *See* Rosen, *In-line Inspection Services for Deformation, Geometry and Mapping,* available at: *https://www.rosen-group.com/en/expertise/product-and-service-finder/in-line-inspection-services-for-deformation-geometry-and-mapping#ro-geo-xt-service* (noting how sensors improve accuracy and data quality, with more accurate tools ''[m]inimiz[ing] conservatism of integrity assessments based on exceptionally detailed anomaly profiles'').

[15] Rosen, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2017–0151–0025, at 1 (Sept. 28, 2018); The Williams Companies, Inc., Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2024–0005–0421, at 3, 5 (Aug. 27, 2024) (noting how study and application ''drives the vendors to constantly improve and refine their tools,'' and today ''[o]perators . . . who regularly deploy [ILI] technology across its enterprise of pipeline systems[ ] can assess risk with a level of detail and certainty that was not available 10 years ago'' with ''the data provided by the current generation of [ILI] tools giv[ing] [an operator] certainty and clarity around the risk assessment decisions . . . regarding potential threats'').

[16] Nathan Leslie *et al., Compact 36*'' *Ultrasonic ILI Tool for Enhanced Pipeline Integrity Management,* NDT Global, available at: *https://www.ndt-global.com/resources/white-paper/compact-36-ultrasonic-ili-tool-for-enhanced-pipeline-integrity-management/.*

[17] S*ee, e.g.,* Michael Baker Jr., Inc, Kiefner & Assoc., TTO No. 5, *Low Frequency ERW and Lap Welded Longitudinal Seam Evaluation,* at 6, 47, 60 (Apr. 2004), available at: *https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/docs/technical-resources/pipeline/gas-transmission-integrity-management/65266/tto05lowfrequencyerwfinalreportrev3april2004.pdf* (finding ILI tools in 2004 unreliable to identify longitudinal seam anomalies).

[18] Rosen, *RoGeo XYZ Service: In-line High-Resolution Pipeline Route Mapping, Curvature Measurement and Strain Assessment,* available at: *https://contenthub.rosen-group.com/api/public/content/cc5d8df35a384c0a95e69d30122e31f8?v=9790a90c.*

[19] Am. Soc. of Mech. Eng'rs (ASME), Supplement to ASME B31 Code for Pressure Piping, ASME B31G–1991, *Manual for Determining the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipelines* (1991) (first edition as its own standard); Kiefner & Assocs. Inc., *Validity of Standard Defect Assessment Methods for the Alliance Pipeline Operating at 80% of SMYS,* at 3–4 (Sept. 6, 2018), available at: *https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/docs/technical-resources/pipeline/gas-transmission-integrity-management/65316/validityofcorrosionassessmentsr1.pdf* (noting ASME B31G was first introduced as a supplement to B31.8 in 1984).

advance over time, becoming more precise and expanding to other types of anomalies, such as cracking and dents, allowing operators to engage in increasingly complex analysis and assessment of a pipeline's fitness for service.

Today, with enhanced accuracy and data quality, computational algorithms can provide fracture mechanics, critical strain analysis, and remaining strength calculations to better predict when a defect might fail. API 579 contains three different levels of engineering calculations and analysis for each anomaly type, scalable based on the amount of data available.[20] Models are capable of overlaying multiple data inputs from different threats to provide a clearer understanding of the pipeline and potential anomalies.[21] Innovations in data processing and machine learning enable real-time algorithmic analysis of tool results, better interpreting complex signals and deformation shapes, and expediting decision-making.[22]

Use of 3D modelling of ILI data, including through the use of models like Plausible Profiles (Psqr), has allowed for ''a data driven and more accurate probabilistic representation of corrosion features in pipelines that was not operationally feasible before the data revolution.'' [23] Fracture mechanics analysis provides an avenue to consider all variables in the predicted failure of a crack or crack-like anomaly by quantifying the relationship between material properties, stresses, and crack propagation. This demonstrates that the propensity for crack failures is not based on depth alone, and depth-based crack response metrics must be overly conservative as a result.[24] Dent analysis has also undergone significant recent study and advancement. Contrary to historical practice and understanding, the latest research has shown that ''dent depth alone is not a great predictor of the effect a dent can have on the fatigue life of a pipeline.'' [25] API developed and released RP 1183 in 2020 to provide guidance using engineering critical assessment (ECA) to evaluate a dent's fitness for service.[26] Finite element analysis, which would not be possible without the more precise data derived from advanced ILI tools, provides the ability to simulate full-scale testing with numerical modeling.[27]

C. Modernization in PHMSA Regulations

PHMSA has modernized its regulations in recent years to account for many of these technological advancements. In 2019, for example, PHMSA revised its assessment requirements for gas transmission pipelines to apply to certain non-HCA locations and made similar revisions to its assessment requirements for hazardous liquid pipelines.[28] In 2022, PHMSA revised its anomaly response and evaluation requirements for gas transmission pipelines, adding detailed scheduling requirements at §§ 192.714 and 192.933 that incorporate predicted failure pressure- and strain-based criteria ''to assure that anomalies are repaired before they become an immediate condition and are at or near failure.'' [29] PHMSA also added analysis calculation criteria to § 192.712.[30] As explained below, PHMSA proposes to apply these concepts to the response and evaluation criteria for hazardous liquid pipelines.

III. Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

In a May 2025 advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM), PHMSA solicited public feedback on improving anomaly response requirements for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines.[31] Public response overwhelmingly favored modernizing these requirements to incorporate a performance-based, engineering-focused approach—one that prioritizes anomalies based on calculated predicted failure pressure, strain, and remaining life rather than one dimensional thresholds. Comments submitted by the Liquid Associations—API, the Liquid Energy Pipeline Association (LEPA), GPA Midstream Association, and the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers—note that the existing hazardous liquid anomaly response requirements are obsolete and fail to leverage over twenty years of advancement in ILI technology and data analytics.[32] Comments by the Gas Associations—the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), American Gas Association (AGA), and GPA Midstream Association—supported using modern anomaly evaluation, as did individual gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators.[33] Representatives of smaller operators requested that in any modernization effort PHMSA retain the existing depth-based options, stating that engineering-based analyses can be costly and resource-intensive up-front, before reaping substantial cost-savings.[34] The Pipeline Safety Trust (PST) supported improving the clarity of response requirements but cautioned

[20] American Petroleum Institute (API) & ASME, API 579–1/ASME FFS–1, *Fitness-for-Service* (4th ed., Dec. 2021) (''API 579''); *see* INGAA Integrity Management Continuous Improvement Group, *Definition and Application of Fitness for Service to Gas Pipelines* (May 31, 2012), available at: *https://ingaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/20024.pdf.*

[21] *E.g.,* Creaform, *Pipeline Integrity Assessment Software for NFT Pipeline Inspection,* available at: *https://www.creaform3d.com/en/products/software/creaform-integrity-suite/pipeline* (discussing use of 3D analysis to show full coverage of pipeline surfaces and damages, feeding assessment calculation models).

[22] *See* NDT Global, *Evolving from a Leading ILI Company to a Preferred Provider of Integrity Management Solutions,* available at: *https://www.ndt-global.com/resources/news/evolving-from-a-leading-ili-company-to-a-preferred-provider-of-integrity/* (''We are leveraging machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques and use our big data platforms to improve the accuracy and reliability of the results from our inspection tools continuously. This is the key to delivering the greatest value in integrity assessments to enable proactive pipeline integrity management.''); Rosen, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0151–0025, at 1; T.D. Williamson, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2017–0151–0024, at 2.

[23] TC Energy, *TC Energy wins Global Pipeline Award* (Nov. 17, 2021), available at: *https://www.tcenergy.com/stories/2021/2021-11-17-tc-energy-wins-global-pipeline-award/.*

[24] *See* Vlad Semiga, BMT Fleet Technology, *Fatigue Considerations for Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines,* at 10 (June 30, 2016), available at: *https://ingaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/29846.pdf* (noting how the geometry factor is built into the equation, providing growth rate constraints that include material properties).

[25] Semiga, *Fatigue Considerations for Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines,* at 65.

[26] API, Recommended Practice (RP) 1183, *Assessment and Management of Pipeline Dents* (1st Ed. Nov. 2020).

[27] ''Due to the complexity and variability of dent shapes, dimensions, and the potential for coincident features, full-scale testing and numerical modeling (FEA) have been the two essential tools that have been deployed by the industry to assess the fundamental behavior of dents.'' Aaron Dinovitzer et al., PR214–203804–R01, *Systematize 20 Years of Mechanical Damage Research,* sec. 3.4.2.6 (May 31, 2022), available at: *https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/rd/FileGet/17097/Systematize_20_Years_of_Mechanical_Damage_Research_V2.pdf.*

[28] *Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines: MAOP Reconfirmation, Expansion of Assessment Requirements, and Other Related Amendments,* 84 FR 52180 (Oct. 1, 2019) (2019 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule); *Pipeline Safety: Safety of Hazardous Liquid Pipelines,* 84 FR 52260 (Oct. 1, 2019).

[29] *2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule,* 87 FR at 52245. These modern criteria were added alongside the traditional depth-based measurements for operators who so prefer.

[30] Section 192.712(c) was remanded without vacatur by the court in *INGAA* v. *PHMSA,* 114 F.4d 744 (D.C. Cir. 2024) for PHMSA to reconsider the dent ECA process. Order on Pet. for Panel Reh'g, *INGAA* v. *PHMSA,* 114 F.4th 744 (D.C. Cir. Dec. 10, 2024) (No. 23–1173). Section 192.712(b) and (d) for corrosion and cracks were created in the 2019 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule.

[31] *Pipeline Safety: Repair Criteria for Hazardous Liquid and Gas Transmission Pipelines,* 90 FR 21715 (adv. notice May 21, 2025).

[32] Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 2–4 (July 21, 2025).

[33] Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0017, at 4–5 (July 21, 2025).

[34] Air Liquide Large Indus. US, L.P., Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0012, at 3 (July 21, 2025); Compressed Gas Ass'n, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0009, at 5 (July 18, 2025).

against reducing the safety level for gas transmission IM regulations or making deregulatory changes without considering safety benefits, environmental impact, and public participation.[35] The National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) similarly cautioned not to reduce the standard of care in IM regulations, which NAPSR credited with the declining rate of incidents and accidents.[36]

The Liquid Associations and operators like Colonial Pipeline Co. (Colonial) and Marathon Pipe Line (Marathon) commented that incorporating improved evaluation methods for hazardous liquid pipelines would enable the consolidation of near-term response timelines.[37] Hazardous liquid operators also requested that PHMSA allow an ECA to respond to dents based on a detailed calculation of strain and fatigue life.[38] Commenters suggested certain changes to the criteria and evaluation methods adopted in a recent rulemaking for gas transmission lines to provide greater flexibility and to reflect modern technologies and practices, though PST cited the need to maintain the safety margins established in these new regulations.[39]

As engineering-based criteria depend on an evaluation of the anomaly, commenters suggested revisions to anomaly evaluation methods for gas transmission and that these revisions be adopted for hazardous liquid pipelines. Suggestions included explicitly approving additional metal loss and crack evaluation methods;[40] revising default toughness values based on recent research;[41] and allowing a process in part 195 to determine material properties by extending the procedures in § 192.607.[42]

IV. Discussion of the Proposal

To address concerns with the use of inconsistent or imprecise terminology in the existing regulations, PHMSA proposes to use the terms ''anomaly'' and ''response criteria'' throughout the regulations.[43] The use of these terms is consistent with ASME B31.8S and other industry sources. An anomaly is an unexamined deviation from the norm in pipeline material, coatings, or welds, which includes defects and imperfections identified upon further examination.[44] Sections 192.714 and 195.453 list ''response criteria'' that require response in a set time for an anomaly that meets those levels, though PHMSA has previously used the term ''repair criteria'' interchangeably.[45] Response refers to the action an operator takes on an identified anomaly, including remediation, to ensure safety such as a repair or temporary pressure reduction.[46] Response is completed by permanent repair, which means replacing the pipe cylinder containing the defect, removing the anomaly, or taking other actions permanently to restore pipeline serviceability.

A. Response Schedules

Existing requirement: Anomaly response schedules set timelines to respond to criteria based on severity. The gas response criteria are broken out by immediate, scheduled (one-year in HCAs, two-years otherwise), monitored, and ''other'' conditions. A schedule is repeated at § 192.933(d) for HCAs and § 192.714(d) outside of HCAs. Existing hazardous liquid response criteria at § 195.452(h) are designated as immediate, 60-day, 180-day, and ''other'' conditions.

Proposal: PHMSA proposes three anomaly response categories to be used consistently between gas and hazardous liquid pipelines: (1) immediate, (2) near-term, and (3) other conditions. The time for immediate response is unchanged. PHMSA proposes to consolidate the repetitive response schedule at § 192.933 into § 192.714 to eliminate unnecessary duplication.

Discussion: PHMSA proposes three clear and consistent anomaly response categories for parts 192 and 195: immediate, near-term, and other conditions. The deadline for responding to near-term conditions is one year in HCAs, two years otherwise. The proposed framework allows for necessary deviations based on location and commodity. It also better prioritizes remediation timelines for hazardous liquid pipelines and provides editorial clarity for gas transmission pipelines. Establishing clear benchmarks promotes public safety and compliance. The proposed revisions to the gas transmission response schedule are purely editorial and the response timelines remain unchanged. Additional information about the proposals is provided below.

PHMSA proposes to create three response categories for gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines. The first category, immediate response conditions, would continue to apply to anomalies that require remediation immediately upon discovery. The second category, near-term conditions, would replace the existing provisions in part 192 for one-year conditions (§ 192.933(d)) and two-year conditions (§ 192.714(d)) and in part 195 for 60-day and 180-day conditions (§ 195.452(h)). The third category, other conditions, would apply to anomalies scheduled for response prior to the next reassessment or for monitoring during the next scheduled reassessment.

Consolidating the response category for near-term conditions will eliminate unnecessary complexity and improve the efficiency of PHMSA's regulations. Currently, the regulations in part 192 and part 195 recognize four different types of comparable conditions that require a response within either 60 days, 180 days, one year, or two years. This four-tiered framework introduces unnecessary inconsistency and complexity into the regulations without producing a meaningful safety benefit. Consistent with the approach used in industry standards, PHMSA proposes to group these conditions into a single near-term category denoted as ''near-term'' conditions, a term which provides consistency and avoids confusion inherent in the term ''scheduled conditions.''[47]

For near-term conditions on gas transmission lines, PHMSA proposes to

[35] PST, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0016, at 2 (July 21, 2025).

[36] NAPSR, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0025, at 4 (Aug. 1, 2025).

[37] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 2, 7; Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 49–50; Marathon, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0018, at 4–5 (July 21, 2025).

[38] *See, e.g.,* Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 5; Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 3; Enterprise Prods. Operating LLC (Enterprise), Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0015 at 4 (July 21, 2025).

[39] Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 7; PST, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0016, at 2.

[40] Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 20; Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 19.

[41] Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 10; TC Energy, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0019, at 5 (July 21, 2025).

[42] Energy Transfer LP, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0020, at 18 (July 21, 2025).

[43] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0017, at 4–5 (noting that current requirements usage of interchangeable terminology is confusing); PST, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA 2025–0019–0016, at 1. As each are consistent terms, PHMSA does not propose defining these terms in §§ 192.3 and 195.2.

[44] *See* ASME, Code for Pressure Piping Supplement to ASME B31.8, B31.8S–2018, *Managing System Integrity of Gas Pipelines,* sec. 13 (2018).

[45] *See* PST, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA 2025–0019–0016, at 1.

[46] *See* ASME, B31.8S–18, sec. 7.

[47] API, RP 1160, *Managing System Integrity for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines,* sec. 9.2.3.4 (3rd ed. 2019, reaff'd Mar. 2024) (also denoting this category as ''near-term'').

require response within one year of discovery for segments in higher risk locations (*i.e.,* HCAs) or two years of discovery for segments in lower risk locations. PHMSA proposes to create an analogous near-term category for hazardous liquid pipelines and to require a response within one year of discovery for all covered segments. PHMSA notes that industry commenters expressed strong support for consolidating the response timelines for hazardous liquid pipelines, which they characterized as unnecessarily complex.[48] PHMSA further notes that two decades of experience applying IM and progress in assessment tools indicate that operators can schedule repairs safely on a one-year basis for many anomalies.[49] A one-year response deadline strikes an appropriate balance between the need to remediate anomalies before they grow to critical dimensions, aligning with industry standards like API RP 1160 and API RP 1176,[50] and allowing operators to engage in the coordination and planning required to complete that remediation without causing unnecessary adverse impacts to customers, communities, and the environment.[51] As discussed in more detail in section IV.B.ii below, PHMSA proposes to address the risk of fatigue-related, time-dependent threats on hazardous liquid pipelines by prioritizing specific response criteria for certain immediate or near-term conditions.[52] For example, as Colonial notes, PHMSA's proposal to respond immediately to metal loss at or below a 1.1 FPR captures slightly more metal loss, while allowing operators to manage the remainder safely under the new near-term response category.[53] Adopting more stringent immediate repair criteria for metal loss, cracking, and dents, but longer timelines and engineering-based criteria for less injurious anomalies, allocates resources more efficiently on high-risk threats.

The third response category for other conditions applies to anomalies that can be scheduled safely for response prior to the next reassessment or that can be monitored for change during that reassessment. Currently, gas regulations contain two similar requirements at § 192.714(d)(3) and (f) designated as ''monitored'' and ''other'' conditions. Splitting these requirements has caused confusion and inconsistency. PHMSA proposes to retain the substantive requirement in a single category termed ''other'' conditions to be applied to both gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, located at paragraph (d)(3). This revision would require that other conditions in (d)(3) must be addressed as required by ASME B31.8S Figure 7.2.2.1, the dent reassessment interval established under the ECA, or monitored no later than the next scheduled reassessment. As PHMSA recently explained in another rulemaking proceeding, Figure 7.2.2.1 provides a sliding scale to determine response timelines based on specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) and predicted failure pressure.[54] ''Other'' conditions under part 195 accounts for some operational differences by directing operators to evaluate any condition not listed for immediate or near-term response that could impair pipeline integrity and schedule remediation as appropriate. API RP 1160 Section 9.2.3.6—a recognized industry practice operators must follow under § 195.452(b)—describes conditions that operators should record and monitor during the next integrity assessment, including stable manufacturing and construction conditions (provided operating conditions have not changed since the last pressure test) or conditions that do not impair pipeline integrity.[55] In both gas transmission and hazardous liquid response, monitoring at the next regular reassessment is the floor, even if the dent ECA, ASME B31.8S, or API RP 1160 imply a longer period. This is consistent with current requirements.

Finally, PHMSA proposes to create a single, consolidated response schedule for gas transmission pipelines at § 192.714. The intent of the proposed revision is to eliminate the duplicative requirements that are currently codified at § 192.714 (for non-HCA segments) and § 192.933 (for HCA segments) without affecting the applicable response deadlines. In other words, a one-year response deadline would continue to apply to near-term conditions on HCA segments, and a two-year response deadline would continue to apply to near-term conditions on non-HCA segments under the consolidated schedule. This revision would maintain current levels of safety as the proposed requirements are equivalent to the current response criteria. When the proposed response schedule in § 192.714 applies to covered segments in HCAs, the rigorous subpart O requirements would still apply.

B. Response Criteria

PHMSA proposes a modern, engineering-analysis-based anomaly response schedule. The modern criteria will go alongside traditional measures, accommodating smaller operators as requested.[56] PHMSA largely implemented these criteria for gas transmission lines in a 2022 final rule and proposes to complete that work and modernize the anomaly response schedule for hazardous liquid pipelines, too. The proposed rule uses calculations, including predicted failure pressure and fatigue life, to determine the proper schedule for responding to anomalies. Using these advanced analyses, operators can better ''characterize the risks associated with specific'' anomalies, tailor safety responses ''to the characteristics and operating conditions of specific pipelines,'' and make ''more informed decisions about what needs to be repaired and when,'' avoiding costly response to non-threats.[57]

Predicted failure pressure (PFP) describes the calculated maximum pressure a pipeline can withstand before a specific anomaly fails. PFP can be calculated using a remaining strength equation for metal loss or a fracture mechanics model for cracks.[58] Pipeline operation is based on the maximum pressure—maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) for gas or maximum operating pressure (MOP) for hazardous liquids—that is safe for operation. Response is designed to ensure predicted failure pressure cannot

[48] Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 11, 49–50; Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 2; Marathon, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0018, at 4–5 (recommending consolidating the two into a single 180-day criteria).

[49] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 2 (noting that updating ''response timelines for 'near term' conditions is possible without impacting safety because the advances in understanding anomaly growth and failure mechanisms that have occurred since the 2001 [IM] rule allow for better prediction of pipeline failures.'').

[50] API RP 1160 (recommending 270-day response of near-term conditions in ''critical locations'' (*i.e.,* HCAs)); API, RP 1176, *Recommended Practice for Assessment and Management of Cracking in Pipelines,* sec. 11.7.3 (1st ed. July 16, 2021, reaff'd Mar. 2024, incl. Errata 1 (Feb. 2021)) (specifying 365-day response for certain cracks).

[51] *See* Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 11, 49–50.

[52] *See Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas,* 68 FR 69778 (Dec. 15, 2003).

[53] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 8.

[54] *See 2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule,* 87 FR at 52252 (discussion when Figure 7.2.2.1 was named Figure 4 in ASME B31.8S–2004).

[55] API RP 1160, sec. 9.2.3.6 & fig. 6. An anomaly with a scheduled response under API RP 1160 sec. 9.2.3.6 that extends beyond the date of the next reassessment is essentially an ''other'' condition.

[56] Air Liquide Large Indus., Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0012 at 3; Compressed Gas Ass'n, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0009 at 5.

[57] Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 7.

[58] Modern dents are evaluated based on strain and fatigue, as discussed in section IV.C.i.

fall below the maximum safe operating pressure using the failure pressure ratio (FPR). FPR is calculated as the PFP divided by the MAOP or MOP of the pipeline.[59] The result of that calculation determines how quickly an operator must repair the anomaly under PHMSA's response criteria. Risk and time-sensitivity increase as the ratio lowers approaching 1.0.

At an FPR of 1.0, the pipeline is predicted to fail at any moment when operated at or above the MAOP or MOP (though the MAOP and MOP have built-in safety factors). An additional margin is necessary to respond before predicted failure pressure reaches MAOP or MOP (*i.e.,* FPR is 1.0) for several reasons. That margin accounts for any potential error between the operating pressure and point of failure and for any permissible temporary pressure surges.[60] It also accounts for further degradation that may occur depending on how soon an anomaly is detected after reaching the point of failure, given the variation that occurs in detecting anomalies within the reassessment cycle.[61]

Immediate response criteria are generally set at a 1.1 FPR. At this point, the anomaly's burst pressure is within 10 percent of the maximum operating pressure, requiring immediate attention. Near-term response criteria are generally derived from the design factors in §§ 192.611 and 195.406, which results in a 1.39 FPR for Class 1 gas transmission pipelines and most hazardous liquid pipelines. To show the importance of these safety margins, consider a pipeline with a MAOP of 1,000 psig where an operator calculates a PFP of 1,390 psig for a metal loss anomaly. With a 10 percent range for tool inaccuracy, the actual burst pressure could range from 1,251 psig to 1,529 psig. Because corrosion is a time-dependent threat, the PFP will continue to decrease, which means that remediation must be scheduled before the next inspection cycle to prevent failure. This example is representative of other near-term response criteria. If an anomaly does not meet an immediate response condition but meets one of these criteria, it is operating below its intended safety margin, necessitating a scheduled response.

For gas transmission pipelines under part 192, PHMSA created a modern, engineering-based response schedule in § 192.714 in the 2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule. An engineering-based response schedule is supported by anomaly evaluation calculations, which PHMSA promulgated for gas transmission pipelines in § 192.712 through the 2019 and 2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rules. In this rulemaking, PHMSA proposes completing the modern response schedule for gas and creating one to improve public safety and efficiency on hazardous liquid pipelines.

i. Gas Transmission Response Criteria

Existing requirement: After the 2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule, § 192.714(d) contains an engineering-based and traditional measurement-based schedule for responding to almost every anomaly; however, there is no engineering-based immediate response criterion for cracks. Currently, immediate response is required for cracks at 50 percent wall thickness, § 192.714(d)(1)(v); preferential seam corrosion with an FPR below 1.25 in seams formed by direct current (DC) electric resistance welding (ERW), low-frequency (LF) ERW, electric flash welding (EFW), or with a longitudinal joint factor less than 1.0, § 192.714(d)(1)(iv); top-side dents with metal loss, cracking, or a stress riser, § 192.714(d)(1)(ii); and metal loss with an FPR of 1.1 and below or greater than 80 percent wall thickness, § 192.714(d)(1)(i)&(iii).[62]

Proposal: PHMSA proposes (1) to add an immediate response criterion for cracks with an FPR of 1.1 and below, (2) to raise the immediate crack depth threshold to 70 percent wall thickness, (3) to revise the immediate response of preferential seam corrosion to an FPR of 1.1 and below, and (4) to refine the interacting dent immediate response criterion to include gouging, but to exclude non-mechanical metal loss up to 10 percent depth, focusing the criterion on excavation damage. PHMSA proposes no change to metal loss criteria.

Discussion: To complete the gas engineering-based response schedule, PHMSA proposes slight amendments in the criteria to reflect improvements in tool technology and capability.

Crack criteria. First, PHMSA proposes adding an immediate response criterion for cracks (or crack-like anomalies) at 1.1 FPR.[63] This provides a PFP-based immediate and near-term response criterion for each crack and metal loss anomaly on gas systems where there is currently not one for immediate crack response. PHMSA sought to adopt a similar PFP-based immediate criterion for cracks in the 2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule, but that provision was vacated on judicial review in *INGAA* v. *PHMSA,* 114 F.4th 744 (D.C. Cir. 2024). The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that PHMSA had not performed a reasoned cost-benefit analysis for the measure it selected in that final rule—immediate response of cracks with an FPR less than or equal to 1.25.[64] INGAA asserted throughout that rulemaking and ensuing litigation that a 1.1 FPR level was sufficient.[65] INGAA continues to do so, citing API RP 1176, which recommends immediate response of likely cracks with an FPR less than 1.1, with a predicted depth greater than 70 percent of nominal wall thickness, or where maximum depth exceeds the tool's sizing capabilities.[66]

PHMSA finds that a 1.1 FPR level is appropriate for immediate response when using advanced engineering calculations. In formulating this proposal, PHMSA reviewed pipeline safety consensus standards, recommendations, and research; received nearly a decade of public comment on the topic; and benefited from extensive advice from the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC) in public fora. Increased ILI data accuracy, paired with using traceable, verified, and complete records, gives PHMSA confidence setting a 1.1 FPR level for immediate crack response. In the past, PHMSA was concerned that tool tolerances could swallow a 1.1 FPR safety factor, leading the Agency to offer a 1.25 FPR with tool tolerance built in.[67]

[59] API 579 refers to this as ''remaining strength factor,'' defined as ''ratio of the collapse pressure of a damaged component to the collapse pressure of the undamaged component.'' API 579, sec. 1A.87.

[60] *See, e.g.,* §§ 192.201(a)(2) (minimum performance standards for pressure relieving and limiting stations pegged to 110 percent of MAOP or 75 percent of SMYS, whichever is lower), 192.739(b) (inspection and test requirements for pressure limiting and regulating stations pegged to 104 percent of MAOP), and 195.406 (allowing a pipeline to operate at up to 110 percent of MOP during surges and other variations from normal operations).

[61] The reassessment interval is up to five years in hazardous liquid HCAs, seven years in gas transmission HCAs, and 10 years on other gas transmission pipelines requiring assessment.

[62] The same criteria exist as the same provisions within § 192.933(d).

[63] The crack criteria capture stress corrosion cracking and other cracking or crack-like anomalies.

[64] *See INGAA* v. *PHMSA,* 115 F.4th at 752.

[65] Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 8; AGA, API, APGA, & INGAA, *Comments on Pipeline Safety: Repair Criteria, Integrity Management Improvements, Cathodic Protection, Management of Change, And Other Related Amendments Final Rule,* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0451 at 4–5, 42–43 (June 6, 2018); API & INGAA, *Petition for Reconsideration of Gas Transmission Final Rule (RIN 2),* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0641 at 7–10 (Sept. 23, 2022).

[66] API RP 1176, sec. 11.7.2; Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 8.

[67] *See 2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule,* 87 FR at 52248; GPAC, *All GT Voting Slides,* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0656 at 49 (GPAC vote of Mar. 28, 2018) (vote recommending that for crack

However, for all other anomalies, operators must add tool tolerance to the FPR. This approach incentivizes operators to deploy more precise tools.[68] Proposed § 192.712(a) addresses this concern by requiring that a qualified subject matter expert perform the analysis, providing additional assurance that the analyses will be performed correctly to include tool tolerance and other uncertainties.

An FPR of 1.1 ''is an appropriate level if [an operator is] doing this correctly with tool tolerances, colony length considerations, and'' other considerations accounted for, and ''[t]hat's actually better engineering.'' [69] The technical advisors on the GPAC previously recommended that PHMSA ''consider 1.1'' as the immediate crack level.[70] API RP 1176 for assessing cracks recommends this immediate response level, too.[71] EMAT tools for cracks have advanced significantly through additional deployment and improvement in recent years, increasing the reliability of ILI-based assessment and reducing concerns expressed about over-conservatism.[72] Cracks with slightly higher FPRs (*e.g.,* 1.25) will fall under the existing near-term response condition, providing sufficient margin for operators to respond before an integrity threat arises.

Second, PHMSA proposes complementary depth-based immediate response criterion for cracks at depths greater than 70 percent of pipe wall thickness. The existing 50 percent crack depth threshold does not reflect current technical understandings and should align with established industry standards and recent research.[73] API RP 1176 treats cracks deeper than 70 percent of nominal wall as immediate conditions, while those between 50 and 70 percent require a 365-day response.[74] The study *Fatigue Considerations for Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines* found that some cracks between 50 and 70 percent depth could remain in a typical gas transmission pipeline for at least 100 years before failing.[75] This shows that operators can manage cracks safely with modifications to operating characteristics depending on the crack properties. Requiring more cracks to be treated as immediate response conditions than is necessary results in unnecessary costs and leads to ''adverse environmental, landowner, and pipeline operational impacts that outweigh the resulting safety benefit.'' [76]

PHMSA proposes to shift the 50 percent crack depth level to a near-term condition. This ensures that 50 percent through-wall cracks receive near-term response in one to two years. Immediate response at 70 percent, with near-term response above 50 percent, strikes the proper balance for safety by ensuring that operators address more imminent threats while retaining a degree of planning for near-term cracks.

ERW immediate criterion. Third, PHMSA proposes revising from an FPR of 1.25 to an FPR of 1.1 the immediate response criterion for metal loss preferentially affecting a detected longitudinal seam weld formed by DC–ERW, LF–ERW, EFW, or with a joint factor less than 1.0.[77] This criterion addresses selective seam weld corrosion, which can behave like a crack defect. PHMSA proposes to revise the FPR criterion to align with those adopted for cracks. Because these seam types are particularly susceptible to selective seam weld corrosion, several existing provisions address the assessments for pipe with these seams. Section 192.712(d) specifies that analysis must be analyzed using a fracture mechanics model proven appropriate to the pipe and seam weld properties, while § 192.917(e)(4) in IM further requires assessments on these types of pipes use tools proven capable of assessing seam threats. The proposed clarifying of the requirement for a subject matter expert to perform any analysis under § 192.712 further strengthens the analysis and assures it considers all variables. Operators must also prioritize assessing pipe with these seams under § 192.917(e)(4) to ensure the prompt detection of potential anomalies, reducing the risk that an anomaly may have existed at threatened levels for some time.[78] The obligation to prioritize assessments using analysis models proven appropriate to the seam properties provide an adequate margin of safety for vintage seam types, making an additional safety factor in the response criterion unnecessary.

Dents. Fourth, PHMSA proposes to clarify the immediate response criterion in § 192.714(d)(1)(ii) for top-side dents that have interacting threats of metal loss, cracking, or a stress riser.[79] This criterion for top-side dents is intended to guard against excavation and unrestrained mechanical damage. Top-side dents are more likely to be caused by excavation damage and be unrestrained, while bottom-side dents are more likely to be caused by an object, like a rock, that remains in place and keeps the dent from shifting under fatigue.[80] But the existing criterion does not reflect this concern precisely as it also requires response to dents with interacting metal loss caused by ordinary corrosion, which is a less

anomalies PHMSA ''consider 1.1 x MAOP for immediate conditions after tool tolerance has been field verified and applied''). *See also* INGAA & API, *Petition for Reconsideration,* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0644 at 10 (Sept. 23, 2022) (requesting that PHMSA ''amend the language modify the threshold for requiring immediate repair of a crack or crack-like anomaly to be 1.1 times MAOP after tool tolerance is verified'').

[68] *See GPAC Transcript March 28, 2018,* Docket ID PHMSA–2016–0136–0040 at 72–73 (2018) (Andy Drake) (noting that too high of an immediate response level would discourage proactive safety behavior and result in ''a gamesmanship thing going on where people don't look at tool tolerance, they don't look at colony length, they're not doing the things you want them to do so that they don't have to dig up half of the earth'').

[69] *GPAC Transcript March 28, 2018,* Docket ID PHMSA–2016–0136–0040 at 73 (2018) (Andy Drake).

[70] Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 8 (recommending that an FPR of 1.1 ''was a sufficient and a technically supported standard'' for the immediate response to cracks); GPAC, *All GT Voting Slides,* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0656 at 49. Liquid Associations and operators made similar arguments in the hazardous liquid context, as discussed there.

[71] API RP 1176, sec. 11.7.2. Though the FPR and depth criteria are consistent with those in API RP 1176, PHMSA does not propose to incorporate that standard by reference for these purposes. Specifically, the likelihood factors for cracking and time-dependence in 11.6.3 and 11.6.4 are highly subjective as written.

[72] *See* Rosen, *RoCD EMAT–C Service: In-line High-Resolution Detection and Sizing of Axial Cracks* (2024), *https://contenthub.rosen-group.com/api/public/content/7e9f40578f924917a4403fa7fc5ba41e?v=0071d845* (EMAT tool detecting pipe body crack sizing with 90 percent certainty to one millimeter); Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 7 (noting that they observed crack tools with 480 sensors in 2000, which has increased to 1028 on today's tool).

[73] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 6.

[74] API RP 1176; *see* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 7 (noting that API RP 1176 supports a near-term response for cracks between 50 and 70 percent wall thickness).

[75] Semiga, *Fatigue Considerations for Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines,* at 53 (''Operating at less severe cyclic severities (*i.e.,* lower SSIs) allows for deeper and longer flaws to exist in the pipeline while still meeting the 100-year fatigue life criterion.''); *see* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 7.

[76] Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 5.

[77] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, attach. 2 at 8 (recommending this change).

[78] In addition, § 192.917(e)(3) requires that an operator can only consider manufacturing defects (including seam defects) stable if an operator subjected them to a hydrostatic pressure test of at least 1.25 times the MAOP, with no subsequent reported incidents attributable to the defect.

[79] *See* § 192.933(d)(1)(ii).

[80] Unrestrained dents can be at higher risk from increased fatigue and strain because the dent size later can ''re-round'' and re-form upon fluctuations in pressure, and unrestrained dent shapes at pressure can be underpredicted. Arnav Rana et al., BMT Canada Ltd., *Improve Dent/Cracking Assessment Methods,* at 55 (PRCI May 30, 2022), *https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/rd/FileGet/17090/Improve_Dent_Cracking_Assessment_Methods.pdf.*

pressing threat.[81] That is not the intended effect, as an accelerated response is justified for mechanical damage, not ordinary corrosion.

To focus the criterion on mechanical damage and other higher risk threats, PHMSA proposes to exclude corrosion-related metal loss that does not exceed 10 percent depth. PHMSA preliminarily finds that a 10 percent threshold is appropriate—though some operators recommended applying a 20 percent threshold—because of the variability in distinguishing between gouging and other mechanical damage from corrosion.[82] A 10 percent threshold ensures that operators will not invest unnecessary resources in addressing dents with superficial corrosion, while minimizing the risks of misclassifying interacting gouges or mechanical damage.

Consistent with the focus on mechanical and excavation damage, PHMSA proposes to add gouging as a specified interacting threat.[83] ''Gouging'' is a mechanical form of metal loss (as opposed to corrosion) that removes metal mechanically.[84]

General. Throughout § 192.714(d)(2), the near-term response FPRs are tied to the design factor and involve the class location of the pipeline where the anomaly is located. In the recently issued Class Location Change Final Rule, PHMSA provided an FPR for operators to use as part of the IM alternative for eligible Class 3 segments.[85] PHMSA added that FPR because PFP is based on the original design of the pipe, which varies for eligible Class 3 segments depending on the class location at the time of installation. To create a unified response schedule for all gas transmission lines, PHMSA proposes moving the FPR for eligible Class 3 segments from § 192.611(a)(4)(iii)(C) to § 192.714.

PHMSA also proposes certain editorial revisions to the gas response section. PHMSA has restructured the section to avoid duplication in revisions that are not intended to impart substantive changes. For example, PHMSA proposes centralizing FPR criteria and references to ECA provisions, rather than repeating the same FPR for each anomaly. These changes should provide additional clarity to the regulations and increase operator compliance.

ii. Hazardous Liquid Response Criteria

Section 195.452 contains a response schedule for hazardous liquid pipelines that has not been amended since the adoption of the IM regulations in the early 2000s. PHMSA proposes to create a more modern response schedule that combines engineering-based metrics with existing depth-based measurements. Though largely modeled on the response schedule for gas transmission lines, the proposal accounts for the unique characteristics of hazardous liquids where necessary.

PHMSA proposes locating the updated hazardous liquid response schedule in a new section, § 195.453, within the IM regulations. Proposed § 195.453 would incorporate many of the editorial revisions discussed above for gas transmission lines to provide consistency in the response schedule for hazardous liquid pipelines under the IM program. That consistency should aid operators, regulators, and other interested stakeholders in evaluating, monitoring, and making decisions about pipeline repairs.[86]

1. Cracks

Existing requirement: The IM regulations treat ''[a] potential crack indication that when excavated is determined to be a crack'' as a 180-day condition, § 195.452(h)(iii)(G).

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to treat cracks with an FPR of 1.1 and below or that are through more than 70 percent of the remaining wall thickness as immediate response conditions. PHMSA proposes to treat cracks with an FPR of 1.39 and below or with a depth above 50 percent as near-term response conditions.

Discussion: The response schedule in the existing IM regulations does not include any explicit criteria for cracks that require an immediate response. As the Liquid Associations note, ''[i]n recent years, operators have deployed advanced ultrasonic crack detection tools to find cracks in the pipe body and longitudinal seam, created calculation methods for cracks, and learned which crack-like features warrant immediate repair.'' [87] Drawing on that experience, PHMSA proposes to categorize cracks at levels of 1.1 FPR and 70 percent depth as immediate response conditions. These two criteria align with API RP 1176, a recommended practice on the *Assessment and Management of Cracking in Pipelines,* and industry comments submitted in response to the ANPRM.[88] Moreover, as Enterprise explains in its comments, EMAT tools have good sensitivity and resolution for identifying and sizing cracks up to 70 percent wall thickness. Adding the proposed crack criteria to the list of immediate response conditions will capitalize on the latest EMAT technology and improve pipeline safety by providing a ''necessary safety margin to ensure'' safe repair.[89] Several other operators expressed support for including these crack thresholds in the immediate response category.[90]

PHMSA proposes to use a 1.39 FPR level in the near-term response category for cracks. This threshold is consistent with the design factor in § 195.106 for most pipe and the approach used in the 2022 final rule for gas transmission lines. Though some hazardous liquid operators suggested that pipelines with an FPR of 1.25 or less are unlikely to fail within one year based on research published by the Pipeline Research Council International (PRCI), the

[81] Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 38 (noting that the existing criterion requires remediation of many dents with non-injurious metal loss).

[82] *See* Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 16, 22–25 (citing Matt Romney et al., *The Power to Know More About Third Party Gouging,* (Pipeline Tech. Conf. 2022)). One report found that ILI vendors had an average gouge probability of detection of 0.81 and a probability of identification of 0.61. Sanjay Tiku et al., BMT Canada Ltd., PR–214–203805, *Performance Evaluation of ILI Systems for Dents and Coincident Features,* at 55 (PRCI Mar. 6, 2024), available at: *https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/rd/FileGet/19308/693JK31910014POTA-_Validate_In-Line_Inspection_(ILI)_Capabilities_to_Detect_Characterize_Mechanical_Damage-_FR.pdf.*

[83] *See* Gery Wilkowski et al., Stress Eng'g Servs., Inc., PRCI L51705, *Cyclic Pressure Fatigue Life of Pipelines with Plain Dents, Dents with Gouges, and Dents with Welds,* (June 1, 1994) (concluding that ''gouge depth has a significant impact on fatigue life. Unground gouges whose depth is more than 10[percent] of the wall cannot be counted on to have any fatigue life.'').

[84] Gouging in a dent is itself a stress riser and significantly raises the risk of cracking, these factors decrease the fatigue life of a dent with a gouge.

[85] Section 192.611(a)(4)(iii)(C); *Pipeline Safety: Class Location Change Requirements,* 91 FR 1608, 1640 (Jan. 14, 2026).

[86] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 26–27.

[87] Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 10.

[88] API RP 1176, sec. 11.7.2 (recommending these levels as providing a ''necessary safety margin to ensure'' safe repair and also recommending immediate response of cracks predicted to interact with a dent, which are addressed by PHMSA in a dent criterion); *see* Enterprise, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0015 at 10–11 (encouraging adoption of 1.1 FPR and a 70 percent wall thickness immediate response conditions to provide necessary safety margin on cracks and align with API RP 1176).

[89] Enterprise, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0015 at 10–11; *see* API RP 1176.

[90] *See* Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 49 (noting these measures match operator data and evidence outlined in API TR 1190); Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 22; Marathon, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0018, at 5 (recommending incorporating API RP 1176 by reference). Though consistent with criteria in API RP 1176, PHMSA does not propose to incorporate that standard by reference for these purposes as the likelihood factors for cracking and time-dependence are subjective.

commenters did not provide that research to PHMSA for review.[91] API RP 1160 recommends near-term response within 270 days for anomalies with an FPR below 1.25, and the proposed 1.39 FPR level accounts for the additional quarter of a year provided for its near-term response.[92] PHMSA recognizes that API RP 1176 recommends response within 365-days for cracks below a 1.25 FPR or exceeding 50 percent depth [93] and will consider further publicly submitted information on the appropriate FPR measure for near-term response of cracks and metal loss.

As a corollary depth measurement, PHMSA proposes near-term response for cracks at 50 percent or more of wall thickness.[94] The *Study on Reliability of In-ditch NDE for SCC Anomalies* illustrates declining *in situ* examination accuracy when depth exceeds 50 percent, supporting the need for near-term response.[95]

2. Metal Loss

Existing requirements: The IM regulations for hazardous liquid pipelines require immediate response for metal loss greater than 80 percent of nominal wall thickness, § 195.452(h)(4)(i)(A), or where the remaining strength shows the predicted burst pressure is less than the MOP (*i.e.,* FPR below 1.0), § 195.452(h)(4)(i)(B). In addition, the IM regulations prescribe an 180-day deadline for responding to the following metal loss conditions, § 195.452(h)(4)(iii):

- a calculation of the remaining strength of the pipe shows operating pressure is less than the established maximum operating pressure at the anomaly location,
- predicted metal loss greater than 50 percent wall thickness in an area of general corrosion,
- predicted metal loss greater than 50 percent wall thickness at a pipeline crossing, or in areas of widespread circumferential corrosion or that could affect a girth weld,
- any indication of corrosion of or along a longitudinal seam weld, and
- a gouge or groove greater than 12.5 percent of the nominal wall.

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to make metal loss with an FPR of 1.1 and below an immediate response condition, while retaining the 80 percent depth criterion. For near-term response, PHMSA proposes to include general metal loss with an FPR of 1.39 and below, to limit the 50 percent depth criterion to localized pitting, and to focus the longitudinal seam criterion on preferential metal loss. PHMSA proposes no change to the gouge or grove criterion.

Discussion: PHMSA proposes to include corrosion at 1.1 FPR and below as an immediate response condition. The current threshold at MOP is outdated and introduces unnecessary risk, particularly for time-dependent anomalies like metal loss, by deferring response until the remaining strength of the pipeline coincides with the highest allowable operating pressure. PHMSA adopted the MOP threshold before the use of engineering analysis in determining anomaly response became standard practice. Modern, strain-based response criteria incorporate a safety factor, both to ensure that an operator responds before PFP reaches MOP and to account for temporary surges above MOP that are permitted under § 195.406. Adding a safety factor is particularly appropriate given the longer time being permitted for near-term response to metal loss anomalies at less critical dimensions, as Colonial notes, and the cost-savings and other benefits from the longer near-term response timeline outweighs the addition of a slightly more immediate response.[96]

A 1.1 FPR is reasonable for immediate response to metal loss on hazardous liquid pipelines. API RP 1160 treats metal loss with an FPR below 1.1 as requiring immediate response,[97] and at least one operator, Colonial, applies the same immediate response threshold for metal loss on its hazardous liquid system.[98] Gas regulations also require immediate response to metal loss at a 1.1 FPR, and there is no technical reason for hazardous liquid response requirements to be less protective.

Next, PHMSA proposes to retain the immediate response requirement for metal loss greater than 80 percent of nominal wall thickness. No comments from the May 2025 ANPRM recommended changing that criterion, and the reliability of inspection tools and remaining life models diminishes at such high levels of wall loss. The 80 percent threshold is consistent with industry standards, such as API RP 1160 and ASME B31G–2023, which cautions that ''due consideration shall be given to the accuracy of measurements and effective corrosion rates when the depth of metal loss exceeds 80 percent of the actual pipe wall dimension.'' [99]

PHMSA proposes three changes in the near-term response category. First, PHMSA proposes a general 1.39 FPR threshold for metal loss, consistent with the level for cracks and for reasons explained in section IV.B.ii.1 above. The 1.39 FPR threshold is appropriate considering the additional time afforded to respond compared with the existing 180-day criterion, though PHMSA welcomes comments with technical study or data on the appropriateness of near-term response at 1.25 FPR.

Second, PHMSA proposes narrowing the general 50 percent criterion to apply only to localized pitting. The 1.39 FPR criterion addresses the failure risk for most metal loss anomalies. But, as Marathon notes, aggressive pitting with complex corrosion can cause pinhole leaks that pass an FPR criterion.[100] The proposal addresses that threat by focusing the existing 50 percent wall thickness criterion on localized corrosion pitting.

Third, PHMSA proposes to limit the near-term response criteria to corrosion that preferentially affects a susceptible longitudinal seam, including the heat-affected zone. This proposal aligns with the gas transmission response criteria. It received broad support in the comments submitted in response to the ANPRM, with commenters noting that the existing criterion is overly broad by requiring remediation of any corrosion that coincides with a longitudinal seam.[101] Preferential seam weld corrosion is different than ordinary corrosion coinciding with a seam, and

[91] Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 20.

[92] API RP 1160, sec. 9.2.3.4.

[93] API RP 1176, sec. 11.7.3.

[94] *See* API RP 1176, sec. 11.7.3.

[95] Jason Van Velsor & Scott Riccardella, Structural Integrity Assocs., Inc., PR–335–143705–R01, *Study on Reliability of In-ditch NDE for SCC Anomalies,* at 35 (PRCI June 11, 2018); *see* API RP 1176, sec. 11.7.3.

[96] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 8.

[97] API RP 1160, sec. 9.2.3.3. This excludes tool tolerance, which PHMSA will require.

[98] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 8 (noting that there is conservatism built-in to the remaining strength models but it would require ''aggressive'' defect growth rates ''identified through multiple ILI run results comparisons and other data integration'').

[99] API, RP 1160 sec. 9.2.3.3; ASME, Supplement to ASME B31 Code for Pressure Piping, B31G–2023, *Manual for Determining the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipelines,* at 1, 19 (2023). *See also* ASME, Supplement to ASME B31 Code for Pressure Piping, B31G–1991, *Manual for Determining the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipelines,* Fig. 1–2 (1991) (requiring repair above 80 percent depth).

[100] Marathon, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0018, at 4 (recommending retaining the existing 50 percent depth criterion as it applies to localized pitting).

[101] API & LEPA, Comment, Docket ID DOT–OST–0025–0026–0874 at 10 (May 5, 2025) (recommending to focusing the criteria on seams known to be potentially injurious, consistent with the gas requirement); Energy Transfer, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0020, at 8 (July 21, 2025) (recommending adopting the seam criterion similar to gas); Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 9–10 (similar, though suggested a selective seam weld corrosion criterion separate from general PFP criterion, as on gas).

modern ILI tools are capable of recognizing that distinction.[102] By focusing on preferential longitudinal seam weld corrosion, the proposed amendment will avoid unnecessary excavations and response to superficial indications of corrosion that operators know are non-injurious.[103] Indeed, Energy Transfer estimates that it repairs two to three hundred non-critical seams annually due to this overbreadth.[104] PHMSA's proposal allows operators to treat coincidental seam weld corrosion the same as any other metal loss anomaly, ensuring safety while avoiding unnecessary excavation. PHMSA notes that the proposal does not include an FPR threshold and requires near-term response for all anomalies preferentially affecting longitudinal seams. The absence of an FPR threshold, which is included in the comparable provision for gas transmission lines, is necessary to account for the accelerated fatigue rates that are generally experienced on hazardous liquid pipelines.

PHMSA is not proposing any change to the 12.5 percent gouge or groove criteria. Though the Liquid Associations omitted the term ''groove'' from their recommended regulatory text, they provided no reasoning to support that change in approach.[105]

3. Dents

Existing requirement: Immediate response is required under the IM regulations for top-side dents (a) with any indication of metal loss, cracking, or a stress riser or (b) that exceed 6 percent depth, § 195.452(h)(4)(i). The IM regulations require a 60-day response for bottom-side dents with any indication of metal loss, cracking, or a stress riser, or top-side dents exceeding 3 percent depth, § 195.452(h)(4)(ii). The IM regulations require an 180-day response for dents (a) greater than 2 percent depth that affect pipe curvature at a girth weld or longitudinal seam weld, (b) on the top-side that are greater than 2 percent depth, or (c) on the bottom-side that are more than 6 percent depth, § 195.452(h)(4)(iii).

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to require an immediate response for dents interacting with metal loss, or for dents with cracking, gouging, or a stress riser regardless of orientation, except non-mechanical metal loss that does not exceed 10 percent depth. PHMSA proposes to require a near-term response for each of the existing 180-day dent conditions. Consistent with the requirements for gas transmission lines, PHMSA proposes to allow an operator to use an ECA process as an alternative for managing each of these dent conditions.

Discussion: First, PHMSA proposes to require an immediate response for dents with interacting features related to mechanical damage regardless of orientation. This proposal combines the existing immediate response requirements for top-side interacting dents and accelerates the existing 60-day criterion for bottom-side interacting dents. PHMSA intended the top- and bottom-side distinction to capture where excavation or mechanical damage is likely to occur, but operators can now distinguish mechanical damage and gouging features with dents from less injurious features. Delaying repair of a bottom-side dent known to interact with injurious gouging or mechanical damage is not justified on a hazardous liquid pipeline subject to fatigue-related threats.[106] These interacting threats requiring immediate response are cracking, mechanical metal loss, gouging, and stress riser. PHMSA explains the threat of excavation and mechanical damage from interacting features in section IV.B.i above. The exclusion for metal loss not caused by mechanical damage (that is still below 10 percent) applies equally to hazardous liquid pipelines.

Second, PHMSA proposes to retain top-side dents exceeding six percent depth in the immediate response category and to include bottom-side dents exceeding six percent depth in the near-term response category. Despite one commenter recommending immediate response for all six percent dents, the risk of a new dent indication, though serious, is not universal.[107] A new bottom-side dent discovered during a baseline assessment is likely construction-related, a risk addressed by the interacting dent criterion.

Third, PHMSA proposes to retain each of the existing criteria listed for 180-day response in the near-term response category. The top- and bottom-side dent distinction remains relevant as the location affects the likelihood of whether the dent is restrained or unrestrained. The top-side two percent depth criterion adequately captures, and subsumes, the existing three percent dent requirement in the 60-day response category. Operators can respond to three percent dents safely in one year as a near-term condition. Finally, PHMSA proposes adding helical seams to the criterion for two percent dents that affect a girth weld or longitudinal seam weld, as they share identical risks.[108]

These are minor changes for dent response. All existing 180-day dent conditions would remain in the proposed near-term response category. Commenters did not generally suggest significant changes to the near-term criteria for dents.[109] The proposal effectively takes two of the current 60-day dent criteria and, based on severity, assigns one (bottom-side interacting dent) as an immediate condition and the other (three percent dents) as a near-term condition. The proposal also allows operators to use an ECA process to set an alternative response schedule for all dents.[110]

C. Anomaly Evaluation

Section 192.712 contains anomaly evaluation methods for metal loss, dents, and cracks. These methods require operators to conduct engineering-based calculations in determining a modern response schedule. PHMSA proposes to make select revisions to § 192.712, to add a dent ECA provision at § 192.712(c), and to promulgate a similar regulation for hazardous liquid pipelines at § 195.415.

i. Anomaly Evaluation for Dents by the Dent ECA

Existing Requirement: In 2022, PHMSA issued requirements at § 192.712(c) establishing procedures for gas operators to determine alternative dent response timelines using an ECA. INGAA filed a petition for judicial review challenging that regulation, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (D.C. Circuit) subsequently remanded § 192.712(c) to PHMSA for further consideration to address certain deficiencies in the rulemaking process.[111] No dent ECA

[102] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 8 (noting that new ILI tools are better able to find these seam defects).

[103] *See* API & LEPA, economic comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0027, at table 1 (Dec. 3, 2025) (supplemental comments representing nearly half of industry estimated quantified cost savings and suggesting substantial cost savings by focusing this requirement on injurious seams); GPA Midstream Ass'n, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0029 (Dec. 8, 2025) (supporting API & LEPA economic comment).

[104] Energy Transfer, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0020, at 8.

[105] Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 17.

[106] *See* Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 24 (citing Matt Romney et al., *The Power to Know More About Third Party Gouging,* (Pipeline Tech. Conf. 2022)).

[107] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 10.

[108] *See* API RP 1183, sec. 6.5.1.3.

[109] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, attach. 2 at 13.

[110] *See* Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 5; Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 3; Enterprise, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0015 at 4.

[111] *See* Order on Pet. for Panel Reh'g, *INGAA* v. *PHMSA,* 114 F.4th 744 (D.C. Cir. Dec. 10, 2024) (No.

process is yet included in the part 195 regulations for hazardous liquid pipelines.

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to add a dent ECA process at §§ 192.712(c) and 195.415(c) to allow operators to establish alternative response timelines for dent criteria under §§ 192.714 and 195.453.

Discussion: As a result of the significant advancements in pipeline technology that have occurred in recent years, operators can use ECA to model the characteristics of a dent with greater accuracy, producing strain and fatigue analyses that can be used to calculate the remaining life of a dent.[112] The traditional criteria for responding to dents only account for general characteristics such as depth, size, and location. Fatigue is not considered, which makes the traditional criteria overly conservative from an anomaly response perspective, particularly when an operator is willing to conduct an ECA.[113]

For these reasons, PHMSA proposes to allow operators to perform an ECA to establish an alternative response schedule for dents that would otherwise fall into the immediate or near-term response category.[114] Commenters expressed overwhelming support for this concept. ''The ability for operators to use an ECA to set an alternate timeline for responding to dents, which does not increase safety risk, can have great benefit to operators.'' [115]

More accurate results and information can be obtained by following an approved ECA process, allowing operators to focus scarce resources on responding to dents that present a true integrity threat and avoiding unnecessary operations and maintenance activities and service disruptions. The ECA process also provides a level of safety that meets or exceeds the general depth measurements used in the traditional approach and results in significant cost savings (even considering upfront costs).[116] For example, one operator found that 29 of 31 dents analyzed with level 3 FEA had a remaining life of 25 years or more, proving them safe.[117] Another expects that more than half of the 251 dents excavated over the past decade under the response criteria did not present an integrity threat, so the ECA would allow them over $10 million in cost savings.[118] In its analysis of § 192.712(c), INGAA stated that a dent ECA process would reduce around 572 unnecessary excavations per year, saving even just a sampling of its gas transmission member-operators about $85.8 million in repair costs.[119]

PHMSA proposes a dent ECA process at §§ 192.712(c) and 195.415(c) for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines that is substantially similar to the approach used in the 2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule.[120] With slight differences accounting for the commodities, PHMSA expects that the proposal similarly is appropriate for hazardous liquid pipelines. Edits provide clarity regarding acceptable procedures and improve structure without substantive difference intended.[121] The ECA is available for dents less than 10 percent deep, which is consistent with an original requirement within § 192.712(c)(8) (2022), as depths exceeding this level introduce too much uncertainty.[122] Conversely, ''[t]esting has shown that plain dents (regardless of shape) with depths up to 10 percent of the pipe diameter (without coincidental metal loss, weld, or crack features) have the same failure pressure as plain line pipe,'' making them well-suited for the ECA.[123]

To address the concerns identified by the D.C. Circuit, PHMSA provides additional explanation in support of the dent ECA process below, with information about the estimated cost-savings provided in the preliminary regulatory impact analysis. As a threshold matter, PHMSA notes that the first edition of API RP 1183, *Assessment and Management of Pipeline Dents,* published in 2020, provides useful guidance on elements of an ECA on gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. PHMSA considered the provisions in the first edition of API RP 1183 in developing the proposed ECA requirements and will consider any updates in the forthcoming second edition in developing the final rule in this proceeding.[124] With that said, the steps of the proposed ECA process for

23–1173); *id.* at 753. *See also Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines: Repair Criteria, Integrity Management Improvements, Cathodic Protection, Management of Change, and Other Related Amendments: Corrections to Conform to Judicial Review,* 90 FR 3713, 3714 (Jan. 15, 2025).

[112] These include profile, geometry, strain sharpness and curvature, potential interacting threats, and whether a dent is restrained or unrestrained.

[113] *See* Janine Woo, *Integrity Assessment of Dents in Pipelines Using Finite Element Analysis and Artificial Neural Networks,* at 2 (2019), available at: *https://ualberta.scholaris.ca/items/2e902116-cadb-4e17-a4c2-9a81ae81bde8* (noting several situations where dent criteria failed to screen injurious dents); Jian Zhao et al., *Standards and Methods for Dent Assessment and Failure Prediction of Pipelines,* Petroleum Sci. Vol. 19, 3029, at 3035 (Oct. 10, 2022).

[114] *See* TC Energy, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0019, at 18 (''ECAs are a technically sound and appropriate method for evaluating dents in many scenarios'' and ''allow for a more detailed, physics-based understanding of strain behavior, material response, and potential crack presence'').

[115] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 15; *see* AGA & API, *Letter,* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0781 (Sept. 20, 2024) (noting that PHMSA's ECA allows gas operators to ''prioritize repairs and maintain gas deliverability'' without impairing public safety or requiring that ''operators expend additional resources to making repairs on piping that can be showing (through engineering analysis) to not be a threat''); Energy Transfer, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0020, at 6 (''Repair criteria for hazardous liquid pipelines that could affect HCAs should be updated to allow dent-strain engineering analysis to evaluate dents and determine whether the pipe is at risk of failure.''); Liquid Associations, Comment, PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 6 (requesting that PHMSA amend the hazardous liquid response criteria ''to also allow operators the option to apply modern [ECA] methods to determine if dents are a threat to pipeline integrity''); TC Energy, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0019, at 18 (supporting § 192.712(c) as ''a solid foundation for evaluating dents and mechanical damage anomalies on gas transmission pipelines'').

[116] AGA & API, *Letter,* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0781 at 2 (noting that these engineering analyses ''allow operators to be precise in how repairs are identified and prioritized, leading to more thoughtful and sophisticated approaches to pipeline safety, not only in [HCAs] but across [ ] pipeline systems more broadly'').

[117] API & LEPA, economic comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0027 at 13.

[118] Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 15.

[119] Pet'r's Unopposed Pet. for Panel Reh'g at 53, *INGAA* v. *PHMSA,* 114 F.4th 744 (D.C. Cir. Oct. 15, 2024) (No. 23–1173).

[120] *2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule,* 87 FR at 52249–50, 52271. The Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee unanimously endorsed that approach during the rulemaking process. GPAC, *All GT Voting Slides,* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0656 at 47; PHMSA, *GPAC Meeting Slides March 26 to 28, 2018,* Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0657 attach. 2 at 147–50.

[121] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 3 (expressing uncertainty and concern with PHMSA's review and no-objection of these ECA procedures).

[122] *See., e.g.,* Brian Leis et al., *Dent Strain and Stress Analyses and Implications Concerning API RP 1183—Part II: Examples of Dent Geometry and Strain Analyses During Contact and Re-Rounding,* J. of Pipeline Sci. & Eng'g, Vol. 4, Iss. 1, at 15 (Mar. 2024), available at: *https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667143324000015?via%3Dihub.*

[123] API RP 1183, sec. 5.2.5; *see* ASME, B31 Code for Pressure Piping, B31.8–2018, *Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems,* sec. 851.4.2 (2018) (marking a distinction for dents at 10 percent depth by permitting griding to a depth of 10 percent regardless of length). Though the consensus ASME B31.8 industry standard advises repair of dents at depths above 6 percent, PHMSA finds that using its proposed version of ECA can permit dents to remain in service somewhat larger than this, up to 10 percent.

[124] API RP 1183, at 8. PHMSA does not propose generally incorporating the recommended practice but proposes the ECA must be consistent with that recommended practice and incorporating it at paragraph (c)(6). PHMSA will consider broader incorporation pending possible improvements in future editions of API RP 1183.

hazardous liquid pipelines are generally as follows.[125]

First, an operator must identify any potential interacting threats or features. Interacting threats and coincidental features are critical to modeling and to assessing dents and may impact fitness-for-service.[126] Some key interacting threats include ground movement, external loading, fatigue, cracking, and corrosion that could affect the dent.[127] The extent of area within which to consider threats to the dent may vary depending on the threat.

Second, an operator must review the available ILI data to create a dent profile to model the dent. The shape parameter involves human judgment that can result in variance, which step six later helps to specify and to remove subjectivity.[128] Third, the profile of a dent that has been identified previously must be compared against any prior profiles. Fourth, loads acting on the dent, both present and any previous loads, must be identified as even past strain can impact dent fatigue.

Fifth, an operator must conduct a curvature-based strain analysis. For these purposes, strain is ''assessed from ILI data using the shape and curvature of the dent as the basis for the strain estimation.'' [129] This provides a quick and valuable computational analysis to ensure a dent does not exceed 10 percent strain level. Curvature-based strain analysis is based solely on the measured geometric dimensions of deformation and is limited in that it assumes the dent is a symmetrical plain dent and does not account for residual stress, interactions, loadings, or fatigue.[130] This assessment is a ''precursor to fatigue life analysis'' in a later step.[131]

Sixth, an operator must account for interacting conditions and loading by performing a finite element analysis (FEA) under API RP 1183.[132] API RP 1183 sets out three levels of strain analysis depending on the type of dent and information available. Level 1 and 2 are screening analyses and apply to single-peak plain dents and assume the dent is free from cracking. Level 3 is a more rigorous analysis that applies to all dents, including interacting defects.[133] PHMSA proposes that a level 3 FEA be required for all dents for the following reasons.

Recent research casts doubt on the reliability of the other less rigorous level 1 or 2 screening tools in API RP 1183. The Canadian Energy Regulator (CER) found that the screening methods for estimating the strain of dents in API RP 1183 Table 6 ''can lead to an underestimation of dent severity, potentially misclassifying injurious dents as non-injurious'' with ''the pipeline's actual integrity below what is projected by API RP 1183.'' [134] Based on these concerns, API issued an addendum removing table 6 and alerting operators that the ''various screening tools included in RP 1183, Table 6 . . . is not the most conservative dent screening method in all cases'' and recommending that dents assessed under its methods may require reevaluation.[135]

Leading pipeline researchers have also found that ''the screening criteria and the fatigue assessment methods at level 2 and below frequently lead to unconservative errors well in excess of 100 [percent]'' with ''the worst unconservative prediction approached −2500 [percent].'' [136] By making assumptions about maximum strain and curvature forms—rather than taking the actual measurements, as these can migrate from the apex of the dent during its lifecycle due to formation, rebounding, and subsequent cycling—the less rigorous strain analyses are found to result in erroneous, often unconservative strain calculations, which negatively impacts the fatigue assessments.[137] Even with smooth, symmetrical dents, this strain analysis risks error, and that is more pronounced for asymmetric, kinked, and skewed dents.[138] FEA is inherently more accurate and requires fewer assumptions, allowing PHMSA to propose the reassessment safety factors discussed below, while higher safety factors may have been necessary with alternative screening analyses.[139]

PHMSA's proposal includes specific language addressing ECA procedures that would generally be viewed as unobjectionable. That language should address the concerns raised by operators, though some sought greater flexibility to use lower-level screening tools than PHMSA is comfortable codifying based on the current data and edition of API RP 1183.[140] Data collected from evaluations of dents analyzed by level 3 FEA should lead to the development of more reliable level 1 and 2 procedures in the future.[141] PHMSA will revisit the requirements for dent ECA procedures, including potential adoption of screening methods as alternatives to level 3 FEA, following

[125] The numerals correspond to the subparagraph under paragraph (c).

[126] API RP 1183, sec. 6.5.

[127] *See* API RP 1183, sec. 4.2.3.

[128] *See* Rhett Dotson et al., *Practical Challenges of Using the RP 1183 Shape Parameter Methods,* at 8 (Pipeline Pigging & Integrity Mgmt. Conf., Houston, Tx., Jan. 2025), available at: *https://ppimconference.com/wp-content/uploads/proceedings/167.pdf* (''the shape parameter approach has significant repeatability challenges based solely on the subjectivity in setting the baselines'').

[129] API RP 1183, sec. 5.2.4.

[130] Curvature-based strain analysis will use a formula such as ASME B31.8, Appendix R, which does not take shear strain, circumferential extensional strain, and the pressure at the time of dent formation into account, all of which can have significant effects on dent strain.

[131] API RP 1183, sec. 5.2.4.

[132] PHMSA proposes to incorporate API RP 1183 by reference for purposes of this step in the analysis.

[133] API RP 1183, sec. 8.3.5.

[134] CER, SA 2025–01, *Evaluation of Dents in Pipe* (June 19, 2025), available at: *https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/safety-environment/industry-performance/information-safety-advisories/safety-advisory/2025/safety-advisory-sa-2025-01-evaluation-dents-pipe.html.*

[135] API, *Addendum to API RP 1183 for Improved Dent Screening* (June 9, 2025), available at: *https://www.api.org/products-and-services/standards/important-standards-announcements/addendum-1-rp-1183; see* Brian Leis et al., *Dent Strain and Stress Analyses and Implications Concerning API RP 1183—Part I: Background for Dent Geometry and Strain Analyses During Contact and Re-Rounding,* J. Pipeline Sci. & Eng'g, Vol. 3, Iss. 3, at 2 (Sept. 2023), available at: *https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpse.2023.100143* (''It becomes evident that significant disparities can arise when results from Level 3 methods are compared to those of the simpler lower-level methods—even for smooth profile single-peak dents.'').

[136] Brian Leis et al., *Dent Strain and Stress Analyses and Implications for API RP 1183—Part IIB: Fatigue-Life Prediction for Dented Pipes, J. of Pipeline Sci & Eng'g, Vol. abst & secs. 9–10 (forthcoming May 14, 2026), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpse.2026.100531.*

[137] Brian Leis et al., *Dent Strain and Stress Analyses and Implications Concerning API RP 1183—Part II: Examples of Dent Geometry and Strain Analyses During Contact and Re-Rounding,* J. of Pipeline Sci. & Eng'g, Vol. 4, Iss. 1, at 20 (Mar. 2024), available at: *https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667143324000015?via%3Dihub.*

[138] Leis, *Dent Strain and Stress Analyses and Implications Concerning API RP 1183—Part II,* at 32 (noting that the error permitted by the first edition of API RP 1183 is too large as a ''±20[percent] error bound is large relative to the safety margin for cross-country pipelines, such that errors the order of 60[percent] become untenable.'').

[139] *See* API RP 1183, sec. 8.3.

[140] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 3 (expressing concern with delay in review of § 192.18(c) notifications for dent ECA procedures from conflict in PHMSA staff review as ''PHMSA has been expecting operators to conduct [FEAs] for all dents even though, the language in § 192.712(c)(6) states '[FEA], or other technology' '' and requesting that ''PHMSA should allow for us of 'other technology' than FEA). *See also* Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 33 (requesting use of a ''valid fatigue life prediction model such as an analytical model or [FEA]''); Colonial, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 24 (similar).

[141] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 34–35 (noting that those operators who have applied an ECA in the last few years ''have gained valuable experience about how the ECA process for dents should be improved to enhance its efficiency'').

its review of the expected forthcoming second edition of API RP 1183. In the meantime, operators are permitted to use the § 192.18(c) and § 195.18(c) process to submit procedures with alternative technology or approaches, including screening tools or simplified strain procedures demonstrated to produce safe results reliably under defined circumstances.

At step seven, the operator estimates the fatigue life of the dent. Fatigue life computes as cycles the pipeline can withstand before failure and is converted to a predicted minimum fatigue life in years. The fatigue life determines whether an alternative timeline can be applied to a dent that would otherwise warrant an immediate or near-term response.[142] An ''ideal 7-step analysis'' for dents includes an ''[a]ccurate estimate of remaining life using 'reasonable' safety factors.'' [143] A safety factor accounts for variability in cyclic life that PHMSA has observed between models in its review of the application of a dent ECA. The effect is that the remaining fatigue life is divided by the safety factor to provide the reassessment factor. With a predicted fatigue life of 500 years, a safety factor of two results in a 250-year reassessment factor, while a safety factor of five results in a 100-year reassessment factor; as both reassessment factors exceed the reassessment periods, the dent ECA in this example would permit delayed response in either scenario.[144] API RP 1183 recommends that reasonable safety factors ''from 2 to 5 have traditionally been applied to the fatigue life'' in ordinary circumstances, though it may be higher with interacting features.[145] A higher safety factor than this is not necessary because PHMSA's formulation does not permit an ECA in certain edge cases, like dents greater than 10 percent depth, and a separate response criteria without an ECA covers anomalies preferentially affecting susceptible welds.

For gas transmission pipelines, PHMSA proposes a reassessment safety factor of two. A safety factor of two is appropriate due to the reduced risk of cyclic fatigue. This was the minimum safety factor achieved to calculate a 90 percent probability of the calculations under the fatigue life assessment models of API RP 1183.[146] A safety factor of two effectively divides results in half, corresponding to the half-life concept common in fitness-for-service standards.[147] Data reviewed by PHMSA has not shown a meaningful difference from a higher safety factor on gas transmission pipelines as these factors do not make a difference in whether safe dents exceed the reassessment interval to qualify for use of the delayed response.

For hazardous liquid pipelines, PHMSA proposes a reassessment safety factor of five. A higher safety factor is necessary for hazardous liquid pipelines to account for the effect of cyclic fatigue,[148] and a safety factor of five corresponds to the upper range recommended by API RP 1183.[149] The difference in the safety factor for gas (2) and hazardous liquids (5) reflects the fatigue calculation differences observed between the commodities. For example, a study found that service life for a repaired dent on a liquid pipeline is 10 years versus 100 years for a gas pipeline using composite wrap.[150]

Finally, though PHMSA still proposes a notification and no-objection approach under §§ 192.18(c) and 195.18(c), PHMSA has revised the requirements of § 192.712(c) to express PHMSA's expectations more clearly for operator procedures, which should reduce review time significantly.[151] PHMSA continues to believe that dent ECA notifications are appropriate to ensure the effective administration of this unique and technically complex program, but invites comment on whether to modify the process. PHMSA may consider adopting a simple notification without requiring an advanced no-objection at the final rule stage. PHMSA also requests comment on whether a simple notification should be incorporated into annual reports instead, and, if so, what information should be collected there.

ii. Anomaly Evaluation for Metal Loss

Existing requirement: Gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators are required to calculate PFP of metal loss anomalies using ASME B31G or R–STRENG. §§ 192.712(b), 195.452(h)(4), and 195.587. For gas transmission pipelines, an alternative remaining strength calculation can be used subject to the notification and no-objection process.

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to allow API 579 and Probable Profiles (Psqr), in addition to B31G and R–STRENG, to assess metal loss in §§ 192.714(b) and 195.415(b). Use of alternative technically accepted remaining strength models demonstrated to provide comparable results is also permitted. PHMSA proposes a 1.25 FPR to accommodate the use of Psqr in the immediate response criteria.

Discussion: After further technical review, PHMSA proposes to expand the acceptable models for calculating metal loss. Specifically, PHMSA proposes to amend §§ 192.712(b) and 195.415(b) to allow the use of API 579 and Psqr.[152] As with R–STRENG and B31G, API 579 and Psqr could be used without further notification or approval from PHMSA.

[142] A dent with a fatigue life, with safety factor applied, exceeding the immediate or near-term response interval is an ''other condition'' and, as proposed §§ 192.714(d)(3) and 195.453(d)(3) provide, must be reassessed at the next scheduled reassessment unless the calculated fatigue life provides a shorter interval.

[143] *API/PRCI Joint Workshop on Dent Assessment & Engineering Analysis Methods,* at 39 (PRCI Aug. 9, 2018), available at: *https://www.prci.org/NewsEvents/MeetingsEvents/138344.aspx; see* API RP 1183, sec. 8.4.

[144] This example is representative of a typical ECA that PHMSA has observed in its analysis of data including through ''other technology'' requests even before it first offered a dent ECA in part 192.

[145] API RP 1183, sec. 8.4. *See also id.* secs. 6.5.1.2, 6.5.1.3 (safety factor of 10 for dent with known longitudinal weld or spiral weld interacting threats)

[146] *See* Rana, *Improve Dent/Cracking Assessment Methods,* at 46 (''Level 2 is the least conservative assessment model and cannot provide minimum factor of safety of 1 with high certainty when using mean curve and up to 0.8 with mean –1sd curve. For target minimum safety factors greater than 1, scaling factors are required across most certainty levels.'').

[147] *See, e.g.,* API 510, *Pressure Vessel Inspection Code: In-service Inspection, Rating, Repair, and Alteration,* sec. 6.5 (11th ed. 2022) (''Unless justified by an RBI assessment, the period between internal or on-stream inspections shall not exceed one-half the remaining life of the vessel. . .''); NACE, SP 0502–10, *Pipeline External Corrosion Direct Assessment Methodology,* sec. 6.6.1 (2010) (''[T]he maximum reassessment interval for each ECDA region shall be taken as one-half the calculated remaining life.''); API, Standard 653, *Tank Inspection, Repair, Alteration, and Reconstruction,* sec. 6.3.3.2(b) (5th ed. Nov. 2014) (similar).

[148] *See* Aaron Dinovitzer *et al.,* PR214–203804–R01, *Systematize 20 Years of Mechanical Damage Research,* at 291 (May 31, 2022), available at: *https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/rd/FileGet/17097/Systematize_20_Years_of_Mechanical_Damage_Research_V2.pdf.* (''As noted, the estimated design lives for the gas pipeline are significantly longer than those calculated for the liquid pipeline; this is typical as liquid pipelines are recognized for having more aggressive pressure cycling conditions than their gas transmission counterparts.'').

[149] *See* API RP 1183, sec. 8.4.

[150] Dinovitzer, *Systematize 20 Years of Mechanical Damage Research,* at 293, fig. 3 & 4.

[151] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 3 (expressing concern with delay in review of § 192.18(c) notifications for no-objection of dent ECA procedures).

[152] API 579–1/ASME FFS–1, *Fitness-for-Service* (4th ed. Dec. 2021); John Kiefner et al., PR–218–183607–R01, *Peer Review of the Plausible Profile (Psqr) Corrosion Assessment Model,* Project Number EC–2–9 (PRCI Aug. 9, 2019). *See also* ASME, American Standard Code for Pressure Piping, B31G–2023, *Manual for Determining the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipelines* (2023); J.F. Kiefner & P.H. Vieth, Pipeline Research Committee Project, PRCI PR–3–805, *A Modified Criterion for Evaluating the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipe,* (Dec. 22, 1989)), *https://www.osti.gov/biblio/7181509* (RSTRENG).

See § 192.712(b)(2). API RP 579 has three levels of assessment for metal loss due to corrosion, which are equivalent to, or more rigorous than, a Modified B31G formula.[153] Leveraging the dramatic advancements in pipeline data, the Psqr model better represents corrosion features probabilistically in a pipeline by using a larger statistical distribution for more accurate and precise PFP calculation.[154] Peer-reviewed research indicates that Psqr classifies injurious defects reliably with fewer unnecessary excavations compared with other models.[155]

To encourage further technological advancement, the proposed regulation will continue to permit operators to use other technically proven models (*i.e.,* those validated against the incorporated methods). However, PHMSA also proposes not to permit alternative methods that provide less conservative results. Since PHMSA proposes doubling the technically proven options specified in code, removing these less conservative options will reduce unnecessary notifications and improve safety.

The same models and methods are appropriate for both gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines. Currently, § 195.587 allows the same existing metal loss models for hazardous liquid pipelines. PHMSA proposes to centralize the existing models, along with the two additional models, in a § 195.415(b) that is similar to § 192.712(b). The current § 195.587 requirement will reference the proposed § 195.415(b) for the metal loss assessment methods and will be relocated to § 195.585(c) to provide one IM regulation on corrosion.

Use of Psqr requires a different FPR for the metal loss response criterion to maintain the intended level consistent with other models as its ''calculated failure pressures are generally higher than those calculated using RSTRENG or B31G.'' [156] That Psqr specific FPR is incorporated in the proposed §§ 192.714 and 195.453. Given the increased precision in Psqr, PHMSA requests comments with technical information on whether this separate FPR is necessary or appropriate for corrosion anomalies calculated using Psqr.

iii. Anomaly Evaluation for Cracks

Existing requirement: Section 192.712(d) requires gas operators to analyze cracks by PFP using a technically proven fracture mechanics model appropriate to the failure mode, material properties, and boundary condition. Acceptable crack evaluation methods are not specified in § 192.712, though the regulation provides additional guidance. Fatigue analysis must be performed using an applicable fatigue crack growth law for a segment that is susceptible to cyclic fatigue or other loading. In addition, § 192.712(d)(3) provides for calculation based on pressure test assessments. Part 195 does not have a comparable provision, as PFP-based crack criteria for hazardous liquid pipelines are not yet codified by regulation.

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to codify examples of technically accepted fracture mechanic methods to assess cracks, including API 579 Level II or III, Modified Ln-Sec, and Raju-Newman equations. PHMSA proposes editorial clarifications to the existing regulation for crack anomaly evaluation at § 192.712(d) and to apply the same approach to hazardous liquid pipelines in § 195.415(d).

Discussion: Cracks must be evaluated by a model appropriate to a specific anomaly. PHMSA has issued guidance on accepted, technically proven crack evaluation models, such as the Newman-Raju Model, PipeAssess PI™ software, and PipeAssess PI™ software for brittle failure; and the Modified Log-Secant Model API RP 579–14—Level II or Level III, CorLas™ software PAFFC Model, and PipeAssess PI™ software for ductile failure.[157]

PHMSA proposes to incorporate these models, which are appropriate for both gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, by regulation (other than proprietary software models, which cannot be codified) to provide greater clarity and certainty. Operators may still use other methods demonstrated to produce safe results; software derived from the explicitly accepted methods is likely acceptable. PHMSA also proposes editorial revisions to § 192.712(d) to express more clearly the requirement to calculate remaining life based on the amount of time required for the crack to grow to failure size, and to apply the same approach to hazardous liquid pipelines at § 195.415(d). With the models incorporated, the reference to Paris' law can be removed.

For cracks that survive pressure testing, PHMSA proposes a non-substantive edit to the requirement at paragraph (d)(2) for clarity and to adopt a similar provision for hazardous liquid pipelines. Pressure test results provide different inputs for analysis than ILI results: pressure testing establishes a minimum PFP for cracks but does not provide any size information. The goal of the analysis is to postulate the largest crack that could survive the pressure test by varying the depth and length of crack features using a high toughness value.

Finally, PHMSA proposes to consolidate the *in-situ* crack examination requirements at §§ 192.714 and 192.933 into a single provision at § 192.712(d)(3). This specifies requirements to perform *in situ* examination of exposed pipelines for indications of cracks identified during an ILI assessment to determine breadth of the cracking threat. PHMSA does not propose any substantive amendment to this requirement for gas transmission pipelines and proposes adopting a similar *in situ* provision for hazardous liquid pipelines in § 195.415(d)(3).

iv. Generally Applicable Components of Anomaly Evaluation

Existing requirement: Section 192.712 sets out anomaly evaluation methods for metal loss, dents, and cracks and includes material property values for gas transmission pipelines. Though part 195 does address consideration of uncertainty requirements, it does not contain any equivalent provision specifying evaluation methods. There are a few general supporting provisions

[153] Kiefner & Associates, Inc., *Validity of Standard Defect Assessment Methods for the Alliance Pipeline Operating at 80% of SMYS,* at 6 (''The methods discussed above present trade-offs for the user between technical rigor and accuracy on the one hand, versus ease of use and reduced exactness on the other. In being modified from complex to simple, the exactness of the assessment decreases, but the simplifications were made so as to offset error with increased conservatism. So, one can say that more exact implies a less conservative computed result but not necessarily reduced safety because in using the more exact method the user is making a better quality estimate.'').

[154] RSI Pipeline Solutions, presentation, *Peer Review of the Plausible Profile (Psqr) Corrosion Assessment Model,* at 20 (PRCI Nov. 2019), available at: *https://www.prci.org/File.aspx?id=171572* (''The Psqr Model is more accurate and exhibits less scatter than the existing models. The model avoids over conservatism without compromising safety.''); Shenwei Zhang et al., IPC2020–9448, *Plausible Profile (Psqr) Corrosion Assessment Model: Refinement, Validation and Operationalization* (Jan. 15, 2021), available at: *https://doi.org/10.1115/IPC2020-9448* (''Validation results show the Psqr model is safe, and more accurate and precise than RSTRENG.''). Though Psqr uses a statistical distribution of possible predicted failure pressures, RSTRENG is based on one worst-case (and overly conservative) profile. RSI Pipeline, at 7.

[155] John Kiefner et al., PR 218–183607–R01, *Peer Review of the Plausible Profile (Psqr) Corrosion Assessment Model,* at 33 (PRCI Aug. 9, 2019).

[156] Kiefner, *Peer Review of the Psqr Corrosion Assessment Model,* at 9.

[157] *See 2019 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule,* 84 FR at 52236; PHMSA, *[Batch One of] Frequently Asked Questions for the [2019 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule]: MAOP Establishment and Reconfirmation FAQs,* FAQ–40 (Sept. 15, 2020), available at: *https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/2023-06/Batch-1-FAQs-PHMSA-2019-0225-9-15-20.pdf.*

in part 192: § 192.712(f) requires analysis to be reviewed and confirmed by a subject matter expert, § 192.712(g) lists records that must be retained for the life of the pipeline, and the § 192.712(e) material properties are addressed in the next section. In addition, §§ 192.710(d), 192.921(a)(1), 192.937(c)(1)(iii), and 195.452(c)(1)(i) each require an operator to account for uncertainties including tool tolerance.

Proposal: In both §§ 192.712(a) and 195.415(a), PHMSA proposes a requirement that analysis be conducted by a subject matter expert and include consideration of uncertainties like tool tolerance. PHMSA also proposes to consolidate the list of records.

Discussion: In addition to the technical content of §§ 192.712 and 195.415 discussed above, PHMSA proposes other editorial revisions. In paragraph (a), PHMSA proposes to require that all analysis be conducted by a subject matter expert and account for uncertainties, including tool tolerance. Locating these requirements in paragraph (a) clarifies that they apply widely to anomaly response. The subject matter expert requirement, derived from the existing requirement at paragraph (g), is necessary to support the complex engineering analysis that underlies the other provisions of the regulation. The requirement to consider uncertainties, currently codified in different regulatory provisions, can be made more effective through consolidation in paragraph (a). Uncertainties include tool tolerance, detection probability, location accuracy, anomaly findings, and model accuracies.

The extensive list of records identified at § 192.712(g) is unnecessary. Each fall within the reach of the statement retained in the proposed paragraph (f) that ''[a]n operator must keep for the life of the pipeline records of the investigations, analyses, and other actions taken in accordance with the requirements of this section.'' Listing specific records is neither necessary nor appropriate given the section's requirement to keep records of all actions.

D. Material Properties and Records

Proper records are key for accurate, reliable engineering analysis of anomalies. This includes toughness values, pipeline material property verification, and records.

i. Toughness and Material Property Values

Existing requirement: An operator must have information about the material properties of the pipe to complete the analysis required by § 192.712. Toughness is one key input. That information generally comes from traceable, verifiable, and complete (TVC) records. When that information is lacking, §§ 192.712(d)(3) and (e)(2)(i) provide several options to use for material toughness values, including:

- Charpy v-notch toughness values from comparable pipe with known properties of the same vintage and manufacturer,
- a conservative Charpy v-notch value based on the ongoing § 192.607 process,
- default values of 13 ft-lbs for body cracks and 5 ft-lbs for cold weld, lack of fusion, and selective seam weld corrosion, which are reduced to 5 ft-lbs and 1 ft-lbs, respectively, on a segment with a history of reportable incidents caused by cracks,
- a full size equivalent Charpy v-notch upper-shelf level of 120 ft-lbs when using a pressure test, or
- an operator may pursue other appropriate Charpy v-notch values under a § 192.18(c) notification and no-objection process.

Part 195 does not yet contain similar processes or values for performing anomaly evaluations on hazardous liquid pipelines.

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to clarify that Charpy v-notch results are not the only valid toughness measure and to make other editorial revisions to set forth the material property-related requirements in paragraph (e). PHMSA proposes revised default toughness values of 19 ft-lbs for body cracks and 9 ft-lbs for those seam anomalies, or 14 ft-lbs and 4 ft-lbs, respectively, where the segment has experienced a reportable incident caused by cracking or crack-like anomalies. PHMSA proposes similar options at § 195.415(e) to obtain material properties values when needed to complete anomaly evaluation on hazardous liquid pipelines.

Discussion: Toughness is a material property that measures resistance to fracture when a crack is present. It is a necessary input for crack analysis and the dent ECA. The most accurate option is to use the actual pipe material property records that are TVC under § 192.607. But, because TVC is an ongoing, opportunistic process and anomaly evaluation may need to be conducted quickly to provide safe response, § 192.712(e) lists several other options to provide a material toughness value: conduct the TVC process, use values from an ongoing TVC process, use TVC properties available for comparable pipe, or use the provided default values that are generally applicable.[158] Editorial edits make this more clear.

The existing language specifies use of Charpy v-notch (CVN) toughness. But, as commenters note, Charpy v-notch tests are not the only valid way to determine toughness.[159] An operator can also establish the fracture toughness of the material using J-resistance (J–R); crack tip opening displacement (CTOD); Drop Weight Tear Test (DWT); and Stress Intensity Factor (K).[160] PHMSA proposes to avoid unnecessarily limiting the toughness value to Charpy v-notch.

As another editorial matter, PHMSA proposes to locate all toughness options in paragraph (e), including those for use on assessments by pressure test that the current regulation list separately in (d)(3). The default value for results from pressure test assessments differs, but the toughness options themselves overlap, and PHMSA proposes no substantive change.

Next, PHMSA proposes to revise the provided default toughness values. Though toughness values generally should be derived from TVC records from the pipe or comparable pipe, when that information is not available § 192.712(e)(2)(i)(C) and (D) provide default, assumed values that are suitable for any situation. These values are slightly higher than may be needed in a given situation because they are intended to apply in an array of circumstances.[161] PHMSA adopted the values in the 2019 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule to correspond with the 90th percentile and 98th percentile results from a 2016 analysis performed by Structural Integrity Associates submitted in comments on the rule.[162]

[158] By the end of a repair, TVC properties should be completed for that segment.

[159] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 11.

[160] *See, e.g.,* API RP 1176, table E.1 (basic facture toughness properties, standards used to acquire the toughness value, and the specific application to the value); ASTM Int'l, ASTM E1820–25a, *Standard Test Method for Measurement of Fracture Toughness* (Mar. 1, 2025) (including test methods for measurement of K, J, and CTOD); Gery Wilkowski et al., PR–276–223814, *Pragmatic Application of MegaRule RIN 1—192.712 Toughness Values L2 and L3 Procedures*, at 26 (PRCI June 7, 2024) (''The fracture toughness of a material varies with many parameters. Thickness, loading rate, temperature, and constraint conditions (*i.e.,* bending versus tension loading) are the key parameters in the absence of environmental conditions (*i.e.,* hydrogen). On the upper shelf, it is important to remember there is no 'true fracture toughness,' but all the values can be related to each other.'').

[161] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 10 (noting that default values, including those it recommends, necessarily are ''the simplest and is a very conservative method given the lack of data'').

[162] Peter Riccardella, Structural Integrity Assocs., *Statistical Evaluation of Charpy Toughness Levels*

Continued

A wider pool of data now exists from applying those toughness values since issuance of the 2019 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule.[163] Having reviewed this larger data set, PHMSA agrees that it is reasonable to update the default values based on empirical observations. PHMSA proposes default toughness values of 19 ft-lbs for body cracks and 9 ft-lbs for those seam anomalies, or 14 ft-lbs and 4 ft-lbs, respectively, where the segment has experienced a reportable incident caused by cracking. These values correspond to the 90th and 98th percentile of observed toughness values—the same basis PHMSA used in the 2019 rule, but updated with more extensive data based on thousands of observations made since its issuance.[164] These values are based upon full size Charpy v-notch tests.[165] PHMSA proposes to display the revised default toughness values in a table in the regulatory text for readability.

To provide an appropriate level of conservatism where TVC records are lacking, the default toughness values for vintage seams use the values presented for the worst-performing seam type in the data: vintage DC–ERW.[166] PHMSA does not propose to incorporate PRCI level 2 and 3 methods since they are not presented as a consensus standard procedure, and there may be hurdles in making such reports publicly available as required by 49 U.S.C. 60102(p). With that said, PHMSA notes that an operator may still use an ''other appropriate value'' by following the notification and no-objection procedures until the § 192.607 process is complete.

The options to obtain strength and toughness values for gas transmission pipelines, including the default values, are appropriate for hazardous liquid pipelines. Gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines are both designed and manufactured in accordance with API Spec. 5L and welded in accordance with API Std 1104. The quality of the pipe material is the same and, while there may be vintage or commodity-specific differences in design between a typical gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline, the toughness values reflect the pipe material. Further, the default values represent an all-encompassing figure that should be equivalent for both. Like gas, while a liquid operator may use Grade A strength values for integrity assessments, this does not affect the requirement to base the design formula on § 195.106(b)(2) or the yield strength of 24,000 psi. For strength values, PHMSA proposes that operators use 30,000 psi or the SMYS that is the basis for the MOP.

PHMSA proposes including options to obtain needed material toughness values in § 195.415(e) similar to those in § 192.712(e). These options leverage an ongoing process for material verification under the proposed § 195.407 to obtain TVC material properties, use those from similar pipe, or obtain them from an ongoing verification process.

ii. Material Properties for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines

Existing requirement: Though § 192.607 provides gas operators with a process to obtain TVC pipeline material properties, part 195 does not provide a counterpart for hazardous liquid operators.

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to add § 195.407 to provide procedures to collect material properties information for hazardous liquid pipelines.

Discussion: Current regulations do not provide hazardous liquid pipeline operators with a path to collect necessary material property information.[167] Though not always needed to implement the historic hazardous liquid pipeline response criteria, the engineering-based criteria and ECA procedures proposed demand accurate information on pipeline dimensions, strength, and toughness. This is key as inaccurate records will skew the analysis by an unknown factor.[168] As hazardous liquid operators like Energy Transfer state, a process available under part 195 akin to § 192.607 would ''allow operators the flexibility to develop their own material properties verification plan, [to] create a sampling program to document material properties, and [to] use recently developed technology to perform *in situ,* non-destructive examinations for determining the properties of unknown steel pipe material,'' all in a cost-effective manner.[169]

PHMSA proposes § 195.407, mirroring § 192.607, to provide a method for hazardous liquid operators to collect missing material properties records. One notable difference from § 192.607 is that no regulation directly triggers § 195.407 or obliges an operator to collect this information independently. Instead, § 195.407 is available for an operator to use as a process if they lack any information necessary to perform an integrity assessment, to evaluate an anomaly, or to perform a repair.[170] Together, the proposed §§ 195.407 and 195.415 ensure that operators have the information needed to carry out IM, particularly with the adoption of engineering-based response criteria that put more emphasis on accurate information on the material properties of the pipeline. In proposing § 195.407, PHMSA has made certain editorial improvements. PHMSA requests comment from gas pipeline operators regarding whether they wish those to be incorporated in § 192.607.

iii. Recordkeeping for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines

Existing requirement: Section 195.404 describes various recordkeeping requirements, including requirements to have information on ''the diameter, grade, and nominal wall thickness of all pipe.'' These requirements, which have been in effect since the first hazardous liquid regulations, include a lifetime record retention provision for all

for Gas Transmission Pipelines, Docket ID PHMSA–2011–0023–0383 attach. 5 (July 7, 2016).

[163] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 10 (advocating to update the default values); TC Energy, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0019, at 5 (same); Wilkowski, PR–276–223814, *Pragmatic Application of MegaRule RIN 1—192.712 Toughness Values Level 1 Analyses.* The values from this study are publicly available in comments, please see Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 10.

[164] Gery Wilkowski, presentation, *Pragmatic Application of MegaRule RIN 1—192.712 Toughness Values* (PRCI Feb. 28, 2024).

[165] *See* A.A. Benzerga et al., *Size Effects in the Charpy V-Notch Test,* Int'l J. of Fracture, Vol. 116, 275, at 292–94, (2002), available at: *https://www.researchgate.net/publication/227076576_Size_Effects_in_the_Charpy_V-Notch_Test.* The behavior of pipeline steel is different depending on the operating temperature. For toughness, the higher the temperature, the more energy it takes to fracture. The material also exhibits ductile behavior in the upper-shelf zone. Lower-shelf toughness values coincide with lower temperature and exhibit brittle fractures.

[166] *See* Jiawei Wang, PR–350–233804, *Comprehensive Review of SSWC Assessment,* sec. 3.5 (PRCI Apr. 8, 2025) (''Using the existing models, no single value of toughness would enable reasonable prediction for the majority of the test results.'').

[167] The only information on collecting material properties in part 195 is a requirement to perform destructive tensile tests to establish the yield strength of pipe with unknown material properties when determining the design pressure in § 195.106(b)(1). This requirement does not cover toughness testing.

[168] *See, e.g.,* Banglin Lui et al., IPC2022–87337, *Application of Strain Based Assessment in Support of Operational and Mitigation Decisions,* at 7 (IPC Sept. 26–30, 2022) (''Data availability has been shown as a critical factor in executing [strain-based assessment]. Detailed pipeline and site-specific data could significantly improve the accuracy of the assessment. It is recognized that the options immediately available to a particular pipeline are often constrained by past and current practices of record keeping and at times changes in ownership.'').

[169] Energy Transfer, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0020, at 17–18.

[170] An operator may also wish to use this process for any other purpose.

repairs.[171] See § 195.404(c)(1). Section 195.266 also lists certain construction-related records that must be retained for the life of the pipeline.

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to consolidate the recordkeeping requirements into § 195.404, adding requirements related to anomaly evaluation and material properties records.

Discussion: Records are an important component of pipeline safety compliance. For that reason, both the obligation to keep and maintain records—and the information that needs to be included in such records—must be clearly stated in the regulations. The proposed rule includes several changes to achieve these objectives.

First, PHMSA proposes to consolidate the design and construction-related recordkeeping requirements of § 195.266 into a single provision, § 195.404. That consolidation will eliminate duplicative provisions and provide operators with additional certainty. Second, in addition to repair records that are required under the existing regulation (which include remediation records like temporary pressure reductions), PHMSA proposes to add lifetime retention for anomaly evaluation calculations under § 195.415. A lifetime record retention requirement for these calculations is necessary to inform any repairs that subsequently may be needed, and to evaluate threats continuously and manage risk under IM. Third, PHMSA proposes to require life of the pipeline retention of material property, pipe design, and pipe component records. Though this applies prospectively, operators of existing pipelines must retain any such records they have, plus records of actions taken to obtain any records under the proposed § 195.407.

These record-keeping requirements mirror those already required for gas pipelines. Operators should already have this information given longstanding requirements to know pipe dimensions and grade for hazardous liquid lines. Requiring these records ensures that operators have the information to carry out modern IM requirements, clarifies compliance, and provides consistency between part 192 and part 195.

E. Response, Repair, and Remediation Requirements

i. Discovery

Existing requirements: Pipeline response timelines begin on the date that a condition is discovered. Discovery occurs ''when an operator has adequate information about a condition to determine the condition presents a potential threat to the integrity of the pipeline,'' which must occur promptly, but no later than 180 days following assessment. Similar definitions are provided at multiple locations—for gas transmission pipelines at §§ 192.710(e) and 192.933(b) and for hazardous liquid pipelines at §§ 195.416(f) and 195.452(h)(2).

Proposal: In centralized §§ 192.714(b) and 195.453(b), PHMSA proposes to clarify the discovery provision to expedite discovery of immediate conditions, while synching discovery for other anomalies to the final ILI report. The 180-day deadline is unchanged.

Discussion: Discovery is critical because it begins the response timeline.[172] Under current requirements for gas and hazardous liquid assessed pipelines, discovery is triggered when an operator has ''adequate information.'' [173] Commenters note that the ''adequate information'' requirement is poorly defined, resulting in uncertainty and inconsistent policy between operators and across states.[174]

After an assessment an operator will often request a preliminary ILI report that is received within sixty days with final reports coming six to twelve months later after further data analysis is performed.[175] Operators often respond to immediate response conditions from the preliminary ILI report and consider less severe conditions discovered on receipt of the final report. This practice is appropriate and reasonable for safety, and PHMSA proposes to codify it to set a consistent requirement for discovery across gas and hazardous liquid pipeline systems.

PHMSA's proposal to differentiate discovery based on the severity of the conditions will ensure prompt response to injurious anomalies while avoiding unnecessary excavations based on potentially premature analysis of less severe anomalies.[176] The final report may confirm a non-injurious condition, which is more likely as anomalies venture beyond the immediate thresholds. This balances comments on preliminary ILI reports and provides flexibility to accommodate various assessment methods and ILI tools.[177]

ii. Non-HCA Hazardous Liquid Response Requirements

Existing Requirement: Though the gas response schedule applies to IM and other assessed pipelines, § 195.452(h) applies only to hazardous liquid pipelines that are subject to IM because they could affect HCAs.[178] Section 195.401(b) has a general obligation for non-IM repairs ''[w]henever an operator discovers any condition that could adversely affect the safe operation of its pipeline system.''

Proposal: To address anomalies outside of IM, PHMSA proposes incorporating section 9.2.3 of API RP 1160 by reference at § 195.416.

Discussion: Stakeholders sought ''clearer guidance about when [hazardous liquid] operators must correct a condition that could adversely affect the safe operation of a pipeline.'' [179] That standard, which applies to hazardous liquid pipelines that are not subject to the IM requirements, dates to the adoption of the original version of part 195 in 1969.[180] Some commenters in this proceeding acknowledge that it is their practice to apply the IM response and remediation methods to anomalies outside of IM as a safety practice and for consistent operations.[181] PST

[171] *Transportation of Liquids by Pipeline—Requirements for the Design, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance,* 34 FR 15473, 15481 (Oct. 4, 1969).

[172] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 20 (''[T]he date of discovery, triggered once adequate information is obtained, is vitally important for regulatory compliance regarding remediation of anomalous threats within the requisite timeframe.'').

[173] *See* §§ 192.710(e); 192.933(b); 195.416(f); 195.452(h)(2).

[174] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 20.

[175] A random sampling by PHMSA inspectors shown an average of 27 days for preliminary report, and 100 days from submission to receive the final report. PHMSA understands that some tools may require more time to analyze results than others.

[176] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 20–21.

[177] *See* Gas Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0022, at 20–21; Energy Transfer, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0020, at 33 (arguing that the current 180-day limit to confirm discovery is often impracticable for complex data integration); International Matex Tank Terminals, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0026 at 2 (Aug. 4, 2025) (recommending defining the discovery of a condition as the date the final report from the tool vendor is delivered to the operator); PST, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0016, at 5 (stating that modern ILI vendors can analyze data faster, and that extending discovery delays remediation); TC Energy, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0019, at 10 (commenting that the current standard is ambiguous and that ''PHMSA should consider amending the relevant provisions to explicitly define 'discovery' as the point at which an operator has both identified and evaluated the anomaly using appropriate engineering analysis'').

[178] A larger portion of hazardous liquid pipelines apply IM requirements than do gas pipelines, about 41 percent.

[179] Energy Transfer, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0015 at 19–20.

[180] *Transportation of Liquids by Pipeline,* 34 FR at 15481 (§ 195.402(c)); *see Transportation of Liquids by Pipeline,* 46 FR at 38369 (recodifying to § 195.401).

[181] *See* Liquid Associations, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0021, at 48; Colonial,

Continued

encourages PHMSA to mandate that practice by regulation and to apply the IM response schedule to hazardous liquid pipelines in all locations.[182]

Rather than following PST's suggested approach, PHMSA proposes requiring operators to follow API RP 1160. This adds a clear response requirement for hazardous liquid pipelines outside of areas that could affect HCAs without undermining the risk-based approach embodied in the IM regulations. The criteria of API RP 1160 section 9.2.3 are similar to those proposed in § 195.453 but include modifications that reflect the decreased risk present outside of HCAs. API RP 1160 defines immediate conditions to be mitigated within five days; near-term conditions to investigate and to respond within 270 days in critical locations, or 540 days otherwise; scheduled conditions to investigate and to schedule response; and monitored conditions to record and to monitor for changes that may require attention. It also includes temporary pressure reductions during repairs established either by considering remaining strength or by defaulting to a minimum of 20 percent.

Compared with the HCA response schedule proposed at § 195.453, API RP 1160 would allow non-HCA locations a degree of additional flexibility on anomaly evaluation and provide an opportunity to collect operational data and experience on alternative approaches in a lower-risk environment. It is comparable to the supportive non-HCA gas schedule with a shorter 540-day near-term response period (compared with two-years in gas transmission) befitting the higher fatigue present on a hazardous liquid pipeline. PHMSA believes requiring compliance with API RP 1160 will address the concerns about a lack of clear guidance in the existing regulations without eroding the risk-based framework underlying the IM regulations.

iii. Temporary Pressure Reduction

Existing requirements: Operators may need to take temporary pressure reductions until a repair is completed under the existing regulations. In that scenario, part 192 requires gas pipeline operators to reduce pressure to: (1) 20 percent below the operating pressure, (2) the PFP times the class location design factor, or (3) PFP divided by 1.1. §§ 192.714(e), 192.933(a)(1)). Part 195 requires hazardous liquid pipeline operators under IM programs to reduce pressure to less than the PFP or, if that cannot be calculated, to take a 20 percent reduction from the operating pressure. § 195.452(h)(4)(i). Parts 192 and 195 both require operators to notify PHMSA if a pressure reduction exceeds 365 days or at an earlier point in time if an operator cannot meet the schedule and cannot provide for safety under a temporary pressure reduction. §§ 192.714(e), 192.933(a)(1), 195.452(h)(1).

Proposal: PHMSA proposes to remove the option to reduce to PFP divided by 1.1 and to add a design factor to the hazardous liquid PFP-based pressure reduction. These changes will result in comparable temporary pressure reduction options for both gas and hazardous liquid pipelines under §§ 192.714 and 195.453. Both gas and hazardous liquid operators may choose between a 20 percent reduction or a reduction to PFP times a design factor.

Discussion: Temporary pressure reductions ensure safety until a permanent repair is complete. A temporary pressure reduction must begin at discovery of an immediate condition or when a near-term timeline has lapsed.[183] PHMSA proposes to retain these requirements for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. Because in these cases the anomaly causes the PFP or other critical strain to be near the pipeline's MAOP or MOP, the temporary reduction reestablishes the margin of safety between pressure and the point of failure until pipeline strength can be restored. It is important that the reduction be to a level below that maximum operating pressure. A default 20 percent pressure reduction is effective at providing a necessary margin of safety. Though it may over account for a reduction in some cases, it ensures that pressure is reduced below the MAOP/MOP and has merit as a method an operator can quickly resort to without much further specific detail and calculations. Another appropriate option is a reduction to the PFP times the design factor, as this accounts for the anomaly failure pressure with uncertainties in anomaly dimensions and how those dimensions may have changed since the assessment.[184]

PHMSA proposes these two options for gas and hazardous liquid operators alike. They are presently available for gas operators and are retained without substantive amendment. Similar options exist in current regulation for hazardous liquid operators, but PHMSA proposes adding the pipeline design factor at § 195.106 to the PFP-based reduction. PHMSA also proposes to remove a third option for gas transmission pipelines that does not provide equivalent safety. A reduction to 1.1 times the PFP does not reduce the MAOP in all cases, unlike the two methods that reasonably provide for safety. In fact, it may require no reduction whatsoever, risking invalidating the response timelines.[185] With two adequate options available, PHMSA proposes removing the less safe temporary pressure reduction option based on 1.1 times the PFP.

PHMSA proposes no change to the notifications required when a response timeline is not met and either a temporary pressure reduction cannot maintain pipeline safety or more than a year has passed with a reduction in place. These are notifications-simple in the existing regulations. They do not currently reference paragraph (c), and PHMSA has explained in the past that only provisions that explicitly reference paragraph (c) trigger the no objection process.[186] PHMSA clarifies that these references to §§ 192.18 and 195.18 are to paragraphs (a) and (b). Prior no-objection is not necessary for temporary pressure reduction notification provisions. It is sufficient to make PHMSA aware of outstanding repairs on pipeline systems for PHMSA to then determine any course of action that may be necessary.

Finally, the recordkeeping requirement within the gas transmission temporary pressure reduction provision at current § 192.714(e)(4) is redundant. Section 192.709 requires that operators keep records related to repair activity, including temporary pressure reductions. PHMSA proposes to drop the requirement within § 192.714(e)(4).

iv. General Repair Requirements

Existing requirements: The existing repair requirements for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines are located in various provisions. For gas pipelines, § 192.711 sets general procedural requirements stating that an operator must make permanent repairs ''as soon as feasible'' with cross-references to

Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0013, at 8.

[182] PST, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0016, at 7.

[183] *See 2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule,* 87 FR at 52246 (''During its meeting in late March 2018, the GPAC recommended PHMSA clarify that pressure reductions would be required for immediate conditions in non-HCAs and in cases where repair schedules could not be met.'').

[184] *See* V. Chauhan & J. Brister, *A Review of Methods for Assessing the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipe,* at 17–19, 44 (PHMSA Nov. 2009), available at: *https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/matrix/PrjHome.rdm?prj=171* (PHMSA sponsored study comparing large data set of actual failure pressures with predicted values, including a result that the predicted value under B31G was less than 75 percent of the actual failure pressure).

[185] *See 2022 Safety of Gas Transmission Rule,* 87 FR at 52246, 52273, 52277.

[186] *See Pipeline Safety: Class Location Change Requirements,* 91 FR 1608, 1644 (Jan. 14, 2026).

more requirements in §§ 192.714 and 192.933, a requirement that an operator take temporary measures until it repairs pipelines operating above 40 percent SMYS and a prohibition on welded patches as a means of repair in many situations. There is also a remediation provision in § 192.710(f) that cross-references other requirements. Section 192.713 sets general permanent repair methods for damage to gas transmission pipelines—including that operating pressure must be at a safe level during repair—while § 192.715 does so for welds and § 192.717 for leaks. Meanwhile, §§ 192.714(b) and 192.933(b) require repairs to be made in a safe manner to prevent damage to persons, property, and the environment, with pressure reduced during repair operations.

For hazardous liquid pipelines, § 195.401 contains a general requirement that a pipeline may not be operated with a condition presenting an immediate hazard to persons or property; requires all operators correct a condition that could adversely affect the safe operation of a pipeline in a reasonable amount of time, while considering the risk to people, property, and the environment when prioritizing repairs; and references § 195.452 for IM repairs. Section 195.422 contains the general requirement to make repairs in a safe manner. Corrosion specific repair requirements are contained at §§ 195.585 and 195.587.

Proposal: PHMSA proposes streamlining and clarifying the general response requirements in §§ 192.711 and 195.422 and removing unnecessary cross-references. The general repair obligations are largely unchanged in these editorial revisions, though PHMSA proposes to add a non-IM response requirement for hazardous liquid pipelines following accepted industry practice.

Discussion: Currently, various sections in part 192 address different aspects of pipeline general repair. These requirements can be repetitive, overlapping, and key requirements may be overlooked because they are housed in different places. PHMSA proposes to consolidate the general repair requirements for gas into § 192.711. Removing the directional cross-references of § 192.711(b) does not obviate the clear requirement for pipelines assessed under IM or § 192.710 to follow § 192.714, as the proposed § 192.714(a) applicability text makes even more clear.

As amended, § 192.711 serves as a consolidated provision for general O&M repairs, merging existing §§ 192.711 and 192.713 without adding substantively different requirements. These requirements, including to maintain safe operating pressure during repairs, render additional repair requirements at §§ 192.714(b) and § 192.933(b) unnecessary. Leaks and welds have certain specific procedures that may merit retaining their own repair requirements at §§ 192.715 and 192.717. PHMSA appreciates comment on streamlining other repair provisions such as those for construction, welding, and corrosion control.

PHMSA proposes similar changes to part 195, though the existing requirements are less cumbersome. The general requirement not to operate a hazardous liquid pipeline containing an immediate hazard remains in § 195.401(b) as an operational requirement. Otherwise, repair requirements are relocated to § 195.422. The general hazardous liquid requirement to make repairs in a safe manner and to protect persons and property is too vague as demonstrated by recent incidents resulting from ill-completed repairs.[187] For example, some operators have used Type A sleeves when Type B sleeves welded circumferentially to the pipeline were more appropriate. ADB–2024–01 notes two incidents of hydrogen-induced cracking of a hard spot that ruptured on a pipeline reinforced with a Type A sleeve.[188] PHMSA issued a May 2025 safety order requiring, among other things, an operator to inspect, to analyze, and to remediate dozens of Type A sleeves following a jet fuel spill.[189] A 2026 advisory bulletin noted these and other incidents where Type A sleeves were not managed correctly.[190] These incidents could have been prevented or mitigated with adequate repair method requirements.[191]

Accordingly, PHMSA proposes to require in § 192.422 that all hazardous liquid operators select a permanent repair method that (a) is listed in ASME B31.4 Tables 451.6.2.9–1 and 451.6.2.9–2 or (b) is shown by reliable engineering tests and analyses to restore pipe serviceability permanently.[192] Tables 451.6.2.9–1 and 451.6.2.9–2 set out examples of appropriate repair methods for given situations. Incorporating this consensus industry standard by reference would set a consistent, demonstrable level to meet for repairs. In addition, PHMSA proposes to allow other repair methods shown by reliable engineering tests and analyses to restore pipe serviceability permanently, which provides a complimentary performance-based option that matches existing language in § 195.585 for corrosion repairs. It preserves flexibility for operators to develop and to deploy alternative repair methods and helps to keep pace with technology.

V. Section-by-Section Analysis

§ 192.7 What Documents Are Incorporated by Reference Partly or Wholly in This Part

PHMSA proposes to incorporate the following material by reference:

1. For evaluation of both metal loss and cracking in § 192.712(b) and (d), API 579–1/ASME FFS–1, ''Fitness for Service'' (2021).

2. For the evaluation of metal loss in § 192.712(b), update reference to ASME B31G, ''Manual for Determining the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipelines'' from the 2004 edition to the 2023 edition and correct cross references. This has the effect of authorizing Psqr.

3. For FEA in dent ECA procedures in § 192.712(c), API RP 1183, ''Assessment and Management of Pipeline Dents,'' First Edition, November 2020.

4. For the evaluation of cracking in § 192.712(d), the Battelle NG–18 Modified LN-Sec and Raju-Newman equations by reference to Kiefner and Associates Final Report No. 13–002, ''Models for Predicting Failure Stress Levels for Defects Affecting ERW and Flash-Welded Seams'' (January 2013). This is available on PHMSA's website.

§ 192.18 How To Notify PHMSA

PHMSA proposes to remove §§ 192.714 and 192.933 from the reference list at § 192.18(c) as they would no longer include notifications subject to no-objection review.

[187] *See* §§ 195.422, 195.452(h)(1). In comparison, gas transmission requires more specific repair methods.

[188] PHMSA, ADB–2024–01, *Pipeline Safety: Identification and Evaluation of Potential hard Spots—In-line Inspection Tools and Analysis,* 89 FR 908267 (Nov. 18, 2024).

[189] PHMSA, *USDOT Issues Safety Order for Upper Makefield Township Pipeline Leak* (May 2, 2025), available at: *https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/news/usdot-issues-safety-order-upper-makefield-township-pipeline-leak.*

[190] PHMSA, ADB–2026–01, *Pipeline Safety: Advisory Bulletin on the Integrity Risks of Type A Repair Sleeves,* 91 FR 3780, 3781 (Jan. 28, 2026).

[191] *See* PST, Comment, Docket ID PHMSA–2025–0019–0016, at 8 (noting some hazardous liquid incidents involving Type A sleeves as indicative of needing improved repair requirements, while recommending no use of Type A sleeves be permitted on hazardous liquid pipelines).

[192] A comparable requirement is included in the requirement for a gas IM plan to conform to B31.8S, which has practices for selecting repair methods, and the requirement in § 192.713 that repairs restore serviceability.

§ 192.632 Engineering Critical Assessment for Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure Reconfirmation: Onshore Steel Transmission Pipelines

PHMSA proposes to update a cross-reference in this provision for content proposed to be relocated from § 192.713 to § 192.711(d).

§ 192.607 Verification of Pipeline Material Properties and Attributes: Onshore Steel Transmission Pipelines

PHMSA proposes to replace the phrase ''Charpy v-notch toughness'' with ''toughness,'' clarifying that an operator may collect toughness information using Charpy v-notch tests and other valid methods.

§ 192.710 Transmission Lines: Assessments Outside of High Consequence Areas

PHMSA proposes to move discovery (§ 192.710(e)) and remediation (§ 192.710(f)) requirements to § 192.714. PHMSA proposes to merge the § 192.710(g) requirement to analyze and account for all available relevant information into the § 192.710(d) data analysis requirements. PHMSA also proposes to remove language that simply repeats requirements for anomaly evaluation and response in proposed §§ 192.712 and 192.714.

§ 192.711 Transmission Lines: General Requirements for Repair Procedures; § 192.713

PHMSA proposes to merge the general repair requirements in § 192.713 into § 192.711(d) and to remove § 192.713.

Proposed § 192.711 provides a general requirement to make repairs in a safe and timely manner, reducing pressure during repair operation. This would remain the primary repair requirement for offshore regulated gas gathering lines, Type A regulated gas gathering lines, and transmission lines not subject to §§ 192.710 or 192.933. PHMSA proposes to eliminate language in § 192.711(b) that simply restates response requirements in §§ 192.714 and 192.933.

§ 192.712 Analysis of Predicted Failure Pressure and Critical Strain Level

PHMSA proposes to adopt additional evaluation methods for metal loss and crack anomalies, to clarify dent ECA requirements, to revise default toughness values, and to make editorial improvements overall. The proposal includes the following.

In paragraph (a), the existing language restating the scope is redundant and replaced with general requirements from existing paragraphs (e)(1) and (f). These general requirements are to include tool tolerance and other uncertainties when evaluating anomalies and to have the analyses performed by a subject matter expert, not merely reviewed by one. These requirements apply to all analysis.

Paragraph (b) covers the evaluation of metal loss anomalies. PHMSA proposes to add two new models: API 579–1/ASME FFS–1 and Psqr (by updating reference to ASME B31G to the 2023 edition). With these additional evaluation methods, PHMSA continues to allow alternative equivalent remaining strength methods to be used, but would no longer permit other calculation methods that provide a ''less conservative result.''

In paragraph (c), PHMSA proposes to reauthorize and to codify the dent ECA procedures. Editorial changes throughout should improve application of these procedures by combining similar steps and expressing expectations more clearly. PHMSA proposes a minimum reassessment safety factor of two to apply to the fatigue life for gas transmission pipelines. PHMSA also proposes that the default ECA procedures require level 3 FEA for strain analysis. Finally, PHMSA clarifies the notification process: a procedure submitted that conforms to the codified procedures is likely to be unobjectionable, while an operator retains the ability to submit procedures with alternative methods for PHMSA's review and no-objection.

In paragraph (d) for crack evaluation, PHMSA proposes to list several examples of acceptable fracture mechanics models for determining PFP and remaining life that are currently provided by PHMSA guidance: API 579–1/ASME FFS–1 level II or III, the Battelle NG–18 Modified Ln-Sec or Raju-Newman equations referenced in Appendix B of Report No. 13–002. Other technically proven fracture mechanics models continue to be available. PHMSA also makes editorial revisions, including moving into paragraph (d) the requirements for the *in-situ* examination of cracks that are currently in §§ 192.714(g) and 192.933(g).

Paragraph (e) contains material properties for anomaly evaluation. Editorial revisions make clearer the currently accepted options, including that toughness values include those from Charpy v-notch and other accepted means, and add values for cracks with pressure tests from paragraph (d)(3). In addition, PHMSA proposes to revise the default toughness values to use when an operator lacks adequate information on toughness and is unable to get it by other means.

Finally, PHMSA proposes to simplify the recordkeeping requirements by retaining existing language which includes all the records previously listed.

§ 192.714 Transmission Lines: Response Criteria

Currently § 192.714 defines response requirements for anomalies discovered on gas transmission pipelines not subject to IM. These requirements mirror those in § 192.933, except that operators have two years to repair conditions in § 192.714(d)(2), while it is one year for pipelines in covered segments in § 192.933(d)(2). Those different timelines would appear in § 192.714(d)(2), as PHMSA proposes listing response criteria and related requirements exclusively in § 192.714. These response requirements would apply to all gas transmission lines that are assessed and do not apply to offshore gas gathering, regulated onshore gas gathering lines, or Type R gas gathering lines as determined in § 192.8.

PHMSA proposes to locate at paragraph (b) the provision for discovery of an anomaly. This comes from similar provisions in §§ 192.710(e) and 192.933(b). Discovery in § 192.714(b) would continue to be defined as the point of time when an operator has adequate information to determine that an anomaly presents a potential threat to the integrity of the pipeline, subject to an 180-day deadline. PHMSA proposes to add that an operator's discovery procedures must include provisions for expediting the discovery of immediate response conditions and identify information and schedules used to complete discovery of all other conditions.

PHMSA proposes at paragraph (c) to incorporate § 192.712 for modern anomaly evaluation and to use the ''failure pressure ratio'' to replace prior language throughout individual response criteria of ''PFP times the MAOP.''

PHMSA proposes several editorial changes within § 192.714, including categorizing response schedules as (d)(1) ''immediate,'' (d)(2) ''near-term,'' and (d)(3) ''other conditions;'' and to clarify the requirements of other conditions, which combines existing text at paragraphs (c), (d)(3), and (f). The ''other conditions'' category encompasses conditions not specified in (d)(1) or (2) and established in accordance with ASME B31.8S Figure 7.2.1–1 and the dent ECA that require response prior to the next scheduled reassessment or that must be evaluated during the next reassessment but that do

not require response prior to that date. PHMSA also proposes editorial revisions at paragraph (d) to structure the existing response criteria.

PHMSA proposes the following substantive changes to the gas response criteria:

- Add an immediate response criterion for cracks with an FPR of 1.1 and below.
- Revise immediate response of cracks based on depth from 50 to 70 percent, while adding cracks of 50 to 70 percent depth as a near-term criterion.
- Revise the immediate response threshold for metal loss preferentially affecting certain susceptible longitudinal seams from 1.25 to 1.1 FPR.
- Add a specific FPR for immediate response metal loss anomalies evaluated using Psqr: 1.25 FPR in Class 1 locations and 1.5 in Class 2, 3 or 4 locations.
- Except from the interacting dent criteria non-mechanical damage metal loss that does not exceed 10 percent of the nominal wall thickness.

PHMSA proposes to reorganize requirements concerning remediation—both pressure reduction and repair—into paragraph (e) and to remove language that repeats remediation requirements elsewhere in part 192. The existing repair requirements at § 192.714(b) are largely redundant with the generally applicable revisions proposed to § 192.711. For temporary pressure reductions, PHMSA proposes to remove the PFP divided by 1.1 option; pressure must be reduced to 80 percent of the operating pressure at the time of discovery or the PFP times the design factor for the current class location. No change is proposed to the notification requirements, which are not subject to the no-objection review under § 192.18(c). Finally, PHMSA proposes to remove pressure reduction-specific recordkeeping requirements as they are covered by recordkeeping requirements related to repair activity in § 192.709(c).

§ 192.933 What actions must be taken to address integrity issues?

With the response schedule relocated to § 192.714, PHMSA proposes to remove the redundant response provisions and to revise § 192.933 to require that operators evaluate anomalies in accordance with § 192.712 and follow the response requirements in § 192.714. Section 192.714(d)(2) provides that near-term conditions discovered on covered segments require response in 1-year, consistent with longstanding requirements in § 192.933.

§ 195.3 What Documents Are Incorporated by Reference

PHMSA proposes to incorporate the following material by reference:

1. For evaluation of both metal loss and cracking in § 195.415(b) and (d), API 579–1/ASME FFS–1, ''Fitness for Service'' (2021).
2. For the evaluation of metal loss in § 195.415(b), update reference to ASME B31G, ''Manual for Determining the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipelines'' from the 2004 edition to the 2023 edition. This has the effect of authorizing Psqr. This also applies to the evaluation of metal loss in §§ 195.585 and 195.588, which cross-reference to § 195.415(b).
3. For FEA in the dent ECA procedures in § 195.415(c), API RP 1183 ''Assessment and Management of Pipeline Dents,'' First Edition, November 2020.
4. For the evaluation of cracking in § 195.415(d), the Battelle NG–18 Modified LN-Sec and Raju-Newman equations via reference to Kiefner and Associates Final Report No. 13–002, ''Models for Predicting Failure Stress Levels for Defects Affecting ERW and Flash-Welded Seams'' (January 2013). This is available on PHMSA's website.
5. For the response requirements of pipelines assessed under § 195.416, API RP 1160, ''Managing System Integrity for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines,'' section 9.2.3, Third Edition, February 2019.

§ 195.18 How To Notify PHMSA

PHMSA proposes to add §§ 195.415 and 195.416 to the list of no-objection notifications in § 195.18(c).

§ 195.401 General Requirements

Proposed § 195.401(b) would continue to prohibit operating a pipeline with a condition representing an immediate hazard to persons or property. PHMSA proposes editorial amendments in paragraph (b) to move other repair-specific requirements to § 195.422 and to remove language that repeats requirements elsewhere in part 195.

§ 195.404 Maps and Records; § 195.266

PHMSA proposes to merge construction recordkeeping requirements of § 195.266 into general recordkeeping requirements in § 195.404 and to remove § 195.266.

In § 195.404, PHMSA proposes to add requirements that operators retain for the life of the pipeline records necessary to perform and to document the engineering analyses proposed in § 195.415. In addition, PHMSA proposes to require retention for the life of the pipeline records of material property, design, and pipe component records of newly installed pipe, any of these records that exist for existing pipelines, and records of those actions taken to conduct material property verification in § 195.407.

§ 195.407 Verification of Pipeline Material Properties and Attributes

PHMSA proposes a new section defining a process to collect missing material property information. This process mirrors the existing requirement at § 192.607. However, in part 195 this is not independently obligatory; it establishes opportunistic means to verify material properties by testing, examinations, or assessments during other maintenance activities.

§ 195.415 Anomaly Evaluation

PHMSA proposes to create § 195.415 that mirrors proposed § 192.712, providing harmonized methods for evaluating anomalies on hazardous liquid pipelines. This is necessary to support the engineering-based response criteria in proposed § 195.453. For hazardous liquid lines, this change supplements existing requirements to evaluate metal loss in §§ 195.585 and 195.588 with updated metal loss evaluation methods and adds new methods to evaluate dents and cracks or crack-like defects. In addition, PHMSA proposes at § 195.415(d)(3) to adopt requirements for the *in-situ* examination of cracks mirroring existing gas transmission requirements. See the discussion of § 192.712 for more detail on its provisions.

§ 195.416 Pipeline Assessments

PHMSA proposes to require pipelines subject to § 195.416 respond to anomalies following section 9.2.3 of API RP 1160 ''Managing System Integrity for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines'' for the purposes of defining discovery, anomaly evaluation, and repair requirements.

PHMSA proposes to update § 195.416(d) to use the notification provision of § 195.18(c). PHMSA also proposes an editorial amendment to remove a redundant and unnecessary cross reference to general requirements in § 195.401 as §§ 195.401 and 195.422 applicable to all hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipelines.

§ 195.422 Pipeline Repairs

PHMSA proposes to relocate repair-specific requirements in § 195.401(b) into this section. In addition, PHMSA proposes to require that operators select appropriate repair methods in accordance with ASME B31.4, ''Pipeline Transportation Systems for Liquids and

Slurries'' (2022) or a method demonstrated to permanently restore the serviceability of the pipeline.

§ 195.452 Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas

PHMSA proposes conforming edits to accommodate PHMSA's proposal to relocate the § 195.452(h) response requirements to a new section at § 195.453, which still applies within IM.

§ 195.453 Response Criteria for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines

PHMSA proposes to locate the IM response requirements in a dedicated section at § 195.453. Proposed § 195.453 mirrors the structure of proposed § 192.714.

PHMSA proposes a number of changes to the hazardous liquid IM response requirements. On the timelines, PHMSA proposes to eliminate the existing 60-day criteria and to extend the response timeline for 180-day conditions to a one-year timeline. Hazardous liquid response then provides for ''immediate,'' ''near-term,'' and ''other'' response conditions, similar to § 192.714. In some cases, specific criteria differ from those for gas transmission pipelines to account for the unique operational characteristics and threats of hazardous liquid pipelines.

On the specific response criteria, PHMSA largely proposes to replace or supplement the existing measurement-based criteria and to add engineering-based criteria, which § 195.453(c) require to be evaluated in accordance with new § 195.415. For immediate response, PHMSA proposes the following criteria:

- Metal loss with an FPR of 1.1 and below (1.25 and below when using Psqr)—which effectively replaces the existing requirement at 1.0 FPR—or 80 percent depth.
- Metal loss with an FPR of 1.1 and below preferentially affecting a susceptible longitudinal seam.
- Cracks with an FPR of 1.1 and below, or greater than 70 percent depth.
- A dent with an indication of cracking, gouging, stress riser, or metal loss, with an exception for corrosion metal loss caused by non-mechanical damage and that does not exceed 10 percent of the nominal wall thickness. This criterion merges existing immediate and 60-day conditions for dents with interacting features and adds the non-mechanical damage exception for corrosion metal loss. This differs from the proposed gas criteria by applying to top- and bottom-side dents.
- A dent on the upper two-thirds of the pipe with a depth greater than six percent, which is unchanged from the existing requirement.

For near-term response conditions, many of the existing 180-day conditions remain, though PHMSA proposes the following criteria subject to a one-year response timeline:

- Cracks with an FPR of 1.39 and below or a depth plus metal loss exceeding 50 percent but less than or equal to 70 percent of the nominal wall thickness.
- Metal loss with an FPR of 1.39 and below.
- Localized corrosion pitting with a depth exceeding 50 percent. This limits the existing depth-based near-term criteria for metal loss to one for isolated corrosion pitting.
- Metal loss preferentially affecting certain susceptible seam types. This limits the existing criteria for corrosion of or along certain susceptible longitudinal seams to corrosion preferentially affecting them. The seam includes the heat-affected zone. Unlike the gas transmission requirement, this criterion does not have an FPR factor.
- A gouge or groove greater than 12.5 percent of nominal wall. No change is proposed to this criterion.
- Dents located on the upper two-thirds of the pipe with a depth greater than two percent, or on the bottom third of the pipe with a depth greater than six percent. No change is proposed to these criteria. The top-side criterion subsumes the existing 60-day criterion for top side dents with a depth exceeding three percent of the diameter, which would be eliminated.
- Dents located on the upper two-thirds of the pipe that affect pipe curvature at a girth weld, longitudinal seam weld, or helical (spiral) weld. This is an existing requirement to which PHMSA proposes to add helical welds.

In addition, the dent ECA proposed at § 195.415(c) is permitted as an exception to any of the listed dent immediate or near-term criteria.

PHMSA also proposes to revise response requirements concerning discovery (from § 195.452(h)(2)), temporary pressure reduction (from § 195.452(h)(1)) to add a design factor to the PFP-based option, and repair. These changes mirror proposals made in § 192.714.

§ 195.585 What must I do to correct corroded pipe?; § 195.587

PHMSA proposes to merge § 195.587 into § 195.585(c) and to refer to § 195.415 for the methods to evaluate metal loss.

§ 195.588 What standards apply to direct assessment?

In § 195.588(c)(4)(i), PHMSA proposes to correct a cross reference and to refer to § 195.415 for the methods to evaluate metal loss.

VI. Legal Authority

A. Pipeline Safety Laws

PHMSA is authorized to administer the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws (49 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.*) pursuant to a delegation of authority from the Secretary of Transportation. 49 CFR 1.97. Section 60102 authorizes PHMSA to prescribe minimum safety standards for the design, installation, inspection, emergency plans and procedures, testing, construction, extension, operation, replacement, and maintenance of gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities.

B. Section 60102(b) Practicability Factors

Section 60102(a) and (b)(2) require PHMSA to find that a safety standard prescribed pursuant to sections 60102 and 60109 is practicable and designed to meet the needs for gas pipeline safety and protecting the environment based on consideration of its appropriateness for the type of transportation, reasonableness, and upon a risk assessment of the costs and benefits.

PHMSA has preliminarily determined that the proposal is practicable, reasonable, cost-effective, technically feasible, and appropriate for gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines, respectively. Anomaly response schedules have been in effect for gas and hazardous liquid pipeline IM programs since the early 2000s, which operators have applied to respond to anomalies and to prevent incidents. The amendments here are consistent with the contours of those long-standing requirements, incorporating modern anomaly evaluation metrics accepted under multiple industry consensus standards. Gas operators have been applying the anomaly evaluation metrics for metal loss, dents, and cracking in § 192.712 for several years, another indication of their technical feasibility; those pipeline engineering concepts apply to either commodity equally. The FPR levels PHMSA proposes for immediate and near-term response, and the time to respond to each, are consistent with gas and hazardous liquid industry standards such as API RP 1160, API RP 1176, and ASME B31.8S. They reasonably provide for safety. PHMSA has discussed throughout this proposal how specific elements are tailored to be appropriate

for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, respectively. PHMSA makes requirements consistent where appropriate for both types of facilities while taking differences in operational characteristics into account where they justify a divergence to be appropriate for the facility. PHMSA has also conducted a preliminary regulatory impact analysis (PRIA) that assesses the costs and benefits, and primarily finds it would be cost-effective.

These considerations result in a proposal PHMSA finds practicable for anomaly response to ensure pipeline safety, and PHMSA invites comment on these findings. As required by § 60102(b), this proposal will also be submitted to the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee and Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committee for review of its technical feasibility, reasonableness, cost-effectiveness, and practicability. 49 U.S.C. 60102(b)(2), (b)(4), 60115(c). PHMSA will announce the public meeting of the advisory committees in the **Federal Register** when it is scheduled, and an additional period of public comment will follow the meeting.

Though § 60102(g) presumes a rule will be effective within 30 days, PHMSA expects that the number of amendments proposed here reasonably will require 60 days from publication of a final rule to comply. PHMSA requests comment on this proposed effective date.

VII. Regulatory Analysis

A. Regulatory Planning and Review—Executive Orders 12866 and 14192

As required by Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 (*Regulatory Planning and Review;* 58 FR 51735 (Oct. 4, 1993)) and 49 CFR part 5, subpart B, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the Executive Office of the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has reviewed this proposed rule and determined that it is an economically significant regulatory action pursuant to E.O. 12866 section 3(f)(1) and, if finalized, likely to be a ''major rule'' as defined by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 804(2)). It is also a deregulatory action under E.O. 14192 (*Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation;* 90 FR 9065 (Feb. 6, 2025)).[193]

[193] *See* OMB, M–24–20, *Guidance Implementing Section 3 of E.O. 14192* (Mar. 26, 2025), available at: *https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/M-25-20-Guidance-Implementing-Section-3-of-Executive-Order-14192-Titled-Unleashing-Prosperity-Through-Deregulation.pdf.*

B. Cost-Benefit Analysis—Section 60102, Executive Order 12866, and DOT Orders

Section 60102(b)(2) and (5) of the Pipeline Safety Laws require PHMSA for each rule to ''prepare a risk assessment that . . . identifies the costs and benefits associated with a proposed regulatory change'' and to make a ''reasoned determination that the benefits, including safety and environmental benefits, of the intended standard justify its costs.'' Likewise, E.O. 12866, as implemented by DOT Orders 2100.6B and 2100.7, requires agencies to regulate in the ''most cost-effective manner,'' to make a ''reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs,'' and to develop regulations that ''impose the least burden on society.''

Consistent with 49 U.S.C. 60102, E.O. 12866, and DOT Orders 2100.6B and 2100.7, PHMSA conducted a preliminary risk assessment of the economic impact of this proposed rule in a PRIA available in the docket for this rulemaking. The PRIA details the costs, cost savings, and benefits of this proposed rule. PHMSA's proposal to incorporate technological and engineering advancements into the response requirements is expected to generate substantial cost savings for gas transmission, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipelines operators. Cost savings for gas transmission pipeline operators are projected to range from $214.6 to $241.7 million at a three percent discount rate, or $208.4 to $235.2 million at a seven percent discount rate. Cost savings for hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipeline operators are expected to be approximately $148.5 million at a three percent discount rate or $146 million at a seven percent discount rate. PHMSA expects that these cost savings will reduce costs for consumers to whom gas transmission, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipeline operators generally transfer a portion of their compliance costs. Those reduced costs to pipeline operators and the public are consistent with E.O. 14192, which establishes a Federal policy of alleviating ''unnecessary regulatory burdens'' by reducing compliance costs and reducing the risks from non-compliance with burdensome regulations.

In addition to the quantified cost-savings, PHMSA expects that by accelerating responses to critical threats while eliminating unnecessary excavations, this proposed rule will improve public safety, benefit worker occupational safety, and have environmental, traffic congestion, and regulatory certainty benefits. This targeted approach reduces worker exposure to high-hazard environments, minimizes environmental degradation from heavy machinery, and alleviates economic costs from traffic congestion near work-zones of excavations. PHMSA has determined that the cost savings and benefits of each of the proposed rule elements would justify any associated costs notwithstanding the uncertainties identified.

C. Energy-Related Executive Orders 13211, 14154, and 14156

The President has declared in E.O. 14156 (*Declaring a National Energy Emergency;* 90 FR 8353 (Jan. 29, 2025)) a national emergency to address the inadequate energy development, production, transportation, refining, and generation capacity of the United States. Similarly, E.O. 14154 (*Unleashing American Energy;* 90 FR 8353 (Jan. 29, 2025)) asserts a Federal policy to unleash American energy by ensuring access to abundant supplies of reliable, affordable energy from (inter alia) the removal of ''undue burden[s]'' on the identification, development, or use of domestic energy resources. This proposed rule is consistent with both E.O. 14156 and E.O. 14154. The proposed rule will give operators flexibility to use modern anomaly evaluation techniques to prioritize their response to integrity threats, reducing repair of stable pipelines. That will in turn increase the transportation capacity and reliability of gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipelines, and improve pipeline operators' ability to provide abundant, reliable, and affordable energy products in response to demand.

Though this is a significant action under E.O. 12866, it is not a ''significant energy action'' under E.O. 13211 (*Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use;* 66 FR 28355 (May 22, 2001)). The proposal will not have a significant adverse effect on supply, distribution, or energy use, as further discussed in the PRIA.

D. Availability of Materials to Interested Parties

49 U.S.C. 60102(p) provides that ''the Secretary may not issue a regulation pursuant to this chapter that incorporates by reference any documents or portions thereof unless the documents or portions thereof are made available to the public, free of

charge.'' [194] Most of the updated consensus industry standards incorporated by reference in this proposed rule can be viewed online for free.

The remaining standards incorporated by reference in this proposed rule are reasonably available to interested parties. PHMSA has negotiated an agreement with API to make viewable copies of its standards available to the public at no cost, accessible at: *https://publications.api.org/IBR-Documents-Under-Consideration.aspx.* Though PHMSA was not able to reach a general agreement at this time with ASME to make its standards readily available online, the public may access the ASME standards proposed to be incorporated by reference in this rule by emailing the PHMSA standards library at *phmsaphpstandards@dot.gov,* and providing the requesters phone number, physical address, and email address. In addition, the material can be reasonably obtained by interested parties through the applicable publisher contact information listed in §§ 192.7 and 195.3.

E. Executive Order 13132: Federalism

PHMSA analyzed this proposed rule in accordance with the principles and criteria in E.O. 13132 (*Federalism;* 64 FR 43255 (Aug. 10, 1999)) and the Presidential Memorandum (*Preemption;* 74 FR 24693 (May 22, 2009)). Though the proposed rule may operate to preempt some State requirements, it would not impose any regulation that has substantial direct effects on the States, the relationship between the National Government and the States, or the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Section 60104(c) of the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws prohibits certain State safety regulation of interstate pipelines. Under the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws, States that have submitted a current certification under section 60105(a) can augment Federal pipeline safety requirements for intrastate pipelines regulated by PHMSA but may not approve safety requirements less stringent than those required by Federal law. A State may also regulate an intrastate pipeline facility that PHMSA does not regulate. In that instance, the preemptive effect of the proposed rule would be limited to the minimum level necessary to achieve the objectives of the statutory authority under which the proposed rule is promulgated. Therefore, the consultation and funding requirements of E.O. 13132 do not apply.

F. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to consider the impact of their rules on small entities, to analyze alternatives that minimize those impacts, and to make their analyses available for public comment. Regulatory flexibility analysis is not required, however, where the agency head certifies that the rule, if promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. DOT's implementing guidance—established consistent with E.O. 13272 (*Proper Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking;* 67 FR 53461 (Aug. 16, 2002))—is available online at *https://www.transportation.gov/regulations/rulemaking-requirements-concerning-small-entities.*

PHMSA has conducted an initial regulatory flexibility analysis, which has been made available in the docket for this rulemaking and is summarized below. Based on this analysis, PHMSA requests comment on whether, based on this initial analysis, the final rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The proposed rule would relieve regulatory burdens, resulting in cost-savings for small entities. A description of the reasons why PHMSA is considering this action and a succinct statement of the objectives of, and legal basis for, the proposed rule are described earlier this proposed rule preamble.

Description and Estimate of the Number of Small Entities to Which the Proposed Rule Would Apply

PHMSA analyzed privately owned entities (inclusive of investor-owned entities) that could be impacted by the proposed rule, which are gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline operators. Based on SBA size standards under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) in effect as of March 17, 2023, small privately owned entities for companies in the pipeline transportation of natural gas sector are those with less than $41.5 million in annual revenue, and crude oil pipelines have under 1,500 employees. PHMSA identified small entities operating under the applicable SBA threshold. PHMSA estimated approximately 614 small parent entities of gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline operators could be impacted.

Description of Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Other Compliance Requirements of the Proposed Rule

PHMSA analyzed the costs of compliance for the small gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline operators. The proposed rule is estimated to result in between $208.4 and $235.2 million in cost savings per year for gas transmission pipeline operators and $148.5 million for hazardous liquid pipeline operators, at a three percent discount rate. Small entities equally share in the compliance cost and cost-savings.

The proposed rule involves several reporting and recordkeeping obligations, though they would be less burdensome than the existing requirements. Operators wishing to use the dent ECA are required to develop procedures to do so, and notify PHMSA for its no objection, a one-time, per operator cost that PHMSA estimates at approximately $39,000. In addition, PHMSA proposes to reduce several existing notification requirements for gas transmission operators. PHMSA proposes to expand the accepted models to evaluate metal loss at § 192.712(b), which will reduce the notification needed to use them as technically accepted models. The proposal to clarify that toughness values can derive from Charpy V-notch or other valid tests, and to revise the default toughness values should both reduce the need for an operator to notify PHMSA of alternative default toughness values.

To estimate the impact of the compliance costs on small entities, PHMSA then calculated cost-to-revenue ratios using the calculated compliance costs of each small parent entity. PHMSA estimates that 26 to 28 percent of small entities would experience cost savings over 1 percent of their revenue, with 16 percent experiencing cost savings greater than 3 percent of their revenue.

Relevant Federal Rules Which May Duplicate, Overlap or Conflict With the Proposed Rule

PHMSA did not identify any Federal rules that may duplicate, overlap, or conflict with the proposed rule. In fact, an objective of this proposed rule is to reduce duplicative or overlapping requirements for the general repair and response of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, for example, the proposed consolidation of §§ 192.711 and 192.713.

[194] Additional information regarding the availability of standards PHMSA incorporates by reference may be found at: *https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/standards-rulemaking/pipeline/standards-incorporated-reference.*

Description and Analysis of Significant Alternatives to the Proposed Rule Considered

PHMSA analyzed a number of alternatives to the NPRM, which are described in detail in Section 6 of the PRIA accompanying this NPRM. However, the impacts of the proposed rule are beneficial to small entities, as they will reap a proportional share of cost-savings and changes involving regulatory clarity and added models of analysis will reduce their compliance burdens. None of the alternatives would reduce the burden on small entities, while providing them commensurate benefit, as the proposed rule.

G. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA)

UMRA (2 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*) requires agencies to assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and Tribal governments, as well as the private sector. UMRA establishes a statutory threshold requiring additional analysis for mandates on the private sector of $100 million or more in 1996 dollars ($203 million in 2024 dollars) in any given year. As explained in the PRIA, PHMSA does not expect that the proposed rule will impose unfunded mandates under the UMRA.

H. National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) requires that Federal agencies assess and consider the impacts of major Federal actions on the human and natural environment. PHMSA has prepared a draft environmental assessment considering the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts of the proposed rule. A copy is available in the docket for this rulemaking. PHMSA invites comment on the environmental impacts of this proposed rule and will consider substantive comments before making a final determination.

I. Executive Order 13175

PHMSA analyzed this proposed rule according to the principles and criteria in E.O. 13175 (*Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments;* 65 FR 67249 (Nov. 9, 2000)) and DOT Order 5301.1A (*Department of Transportation Tribal Consultation Policies and Procedures*), which require agencies to assure meaningful and timely input from Tribal government representatives when developing rules that significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities by imposing ''substantial direct compliance costs'' or ''substantial direct effects'' on such communities, or the relationship or distribution of power between the Federal Government and Tribes.

PHMSA assessed the impact of the proposed rule and does not expect it will affect Tribal communities or Indian Tribal governments significantly or uniquely, such that the consultation requirements of E.O. 13175 and DOT Order 5301.1A do not apply. The proposed rule's regulatory amendments have a broad, national scope and should not affect Tribal communities significantly or uniquely, much less impose substantial compliance costs on Native American Tribal governments or mandate their action. Further, consultation with stakeholders was made available under E.O. 12866.

J. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping requests. The following provisions of this rulemaking will result in minor changes to notification requirements and trigger recordkeeping requirements.

First, two new provisions may require hazardous liquid operators submit notifications to PHMSA. A new § 195.407 proposes to require hazardous liquid operators to notify PHMSA in advance of using an alternative sampling approach in accordance with § 195.18(a) and (b). Similarly, a new § 195.415 requires operators who perform an Engineering Critical Assessment (ECA) for dents to submit their ECA procedures to PHMSA. This submission must be made through the notification and no-objection process outlined in § 195.18(c). The submission may also include a request to use alternative technology or methodology for reliably identifying anomalies that would be actionable under the rule's requirements. Similar existing requirements for gas transmission operators under §§ 192.607 and 192.712 are unchanged, though PHMSA has updated burden estimates associated with dent ECAs and some other notifications under § 192.712 are removed.

In addition, PHMSA proposes operators maintain the following records for the life of the pipeline system:

- *Anomaly Evaluation Documentation:* Records necessary to reproduce any engineering analysis conducted in accordance with the new § 195.415. In addition to existing requirements to evaluate the remaining strength of metal loss anomalies, there are new analyses with associated recordkeeping for crack anomalies, seam corrosion anomalies, and dent ECAs.
- *Material Property Actions:* Records of actions taken to gather material property information under the new § 195.407, including results, investigations, and analyses.
- *Material, Design, and Component Records:* PHMSA proposes a more specific list of required material property records that must be maintained. For steel pipelines installed after the effective date of the rule, these records must be made and retained; for all other pipelines, existing records must be retained.

Finally, PHMSA proposes editorial conforming edits to Form PHMSA F7100.2–1, the Annual Report for Natural and Other Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipeline Systems, and Form PHMSA F 7000–1.1, the Annual Report for Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Systems, to refer to the terms ''immediate'', ''near-term'', and ''other'' conditions as described in proposed §§ 192.714 and 195.453.

PHMSA will submit information collection requests to OMB for approval based on the requirements in this rule. The following information is provided for each information collection request: (1) title of the information collection; (2) OMB control number; (3) current expiration date; (4) type of request; (5) abstract of the information collection activity; (6) description of affected public; (7) estimate of total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden; and (8) frequency of collection. Requests for a copy of these information collection requests should be directed to Angela Hill by email at *angela.hill@dot.gov*.

The information collection burden is estimated as follows:

1. *Title:* Annual Reports for Gas Pipeline Operators.

OMB Control Number: 2137–0522.

Current Expiration Date: 08/31/2026.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: This mandatory information collection covers the annual collection of data from operators of natural gas pipelines, underground natural gas storage facilities, and LNG facilities for annual reports, as required by § 191.17. Following the proposed amendments to § 192.714, PHMSA proposes to modify Form PHMSA F7100.2–1, the Annual Report for Natural and Other Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipeline Systems, to change references to ''Immediate'', ''One-Year'', ''Other'', and

''Monitored'' conditions to ''Immediate'', ''Near-Term'', and ''Other'' conditions. PHMSA does not expect this to cause operators to experience a change in burden.

Affected Public: Operators gas pipeline systems.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:

Estimated annual responses: 2,445.

Estimated annual burden hours: 104,596.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

2. *Title:* Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Assessment Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 2137–0605.

Current Expiration Date: 06/30/2028.

Type of Request: Revision.

Abstract: Operators of Hazardous Liquid Pipelines are required to document the continual assessment and evaluation of their pipelines' integrity through inspection or testing, as well as remedial preventive, and mitigative actions. This mandatory record keeping requirement supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's ''SAFETY STRATEGIC GOAL'' which targets three main strategic initiatives: managing risk and integrity, sharing responsibility, and providing effective stewardship. This goal enhances public health and safety by working toward the elimination of transportation-related deaths and injuries. This information is used by PHMSA to determine compliance with Federal pipeline safety regulations and is also used by Agency and State Officials to assist Federal and State pipeline safety inspectors who audit this information when they conduct compliance inspections and to provide background for failure investigations.

PHMSA proposes to modify this collection to include new notification and recordkeeping provisions from the Pipeline Safety: Repair Criteria NPRM. Under the proposal, hazardous liquid operators would be required to notify PHMSA in advance of using an alternative sampling approach in accordance with § 195.18(a) and (b) and operators who perform an Engineering Critical Assessment (ECA) for dents would be required to submit their ECA procedures to PHMSA through the notification and no-objection process outlined in § 195.18(c). PHMSA expects 710 operators to spend approximately 400 hours developing and submitting ECA documentation to PHMSA. Likewise, approximately 71 operators will incur an additional time burden complying with new recordkeeping requirements. The burden estimate below has been adjusted accordingly.

Affected Public: Operators of Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Facilities.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:

Total Annual Responses: 11,369.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 629,097.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

3. *Title:* Gas Transmission Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas.

OMB Control Number: 2137–0610.

Current Expiration Date: 06/30/2028.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: This mandatory information collection request pertains to gas transmission operators jurisdictional to 49 CFR part 192 subpart O Gas Transmission Integrity Management Program. The information collection requires gas transmission operators in high consequence areas to maintain a written integrity management program and keep records that demonstrate compliance with 49 CFR part 192 subpart O. Operators must maintain their integrity management records for the life of the pipeline, and PHMSA or State regulators may review it as a part of inspections. Gas transmission operators are also required to report to PHMSA certain actions related to their integrity management program. This information collection supports the DOT strategic goal of safety by reducing the number of incidents in natural gas transmission pipelines.

Affected Public: Operators of gas transmission pipeline systems.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:

Estimated number of responses: 1,772.

Estimated annual burden hours: 1,434,407.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

4. *Title:* Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Operator Annual Reports.

OMB Control Number: 2137–0614.

Current Expiration Date: 03/31/2026.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Section 195.49 requires operators of hazardous liquid pipelines to submit data on the safety of their pipelines annually, by June 15th, for the preceding calendar year. This information is used by PHMSA to identify trends in hazardous liquid pipeline accidents and to identify operators who have -poor safety records. Following the proposed amendments to § 195.453(d), PHMSA proposes to modify Form PHMSA F 7000–1.1, the Annual Report for Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Systems, to change ''Immediate'', ''60-day'', and ''Other'' to ''Immediate'', ''Near-Term'', and ''Other'' respectively. PHMSA does not expect this to cause operators to experience a change in burden.

Affected Public: Operators of hazardous liquid pipeline systems.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden:

Estimated annual responses: 950.

Estimated annual burden hours: 18,050.

Frequency of collection: Annually.

Comments on these information collections are invited on: (a) the need for the proposed collection of information for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency; (b) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (c) ways to minimize the burden of information collection on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques; and (d) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the revised collection of information. Send comments to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: Desk Officer for the Department of Transportation, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503. Submitted comments on or before September 8, 2026.

K. Executive Order 13609 and International Trade Analysis

E.O. 13609 (*Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation;* 77 FR 26413 (May 4, 2012)) requires agencies to consider whether the impacts associated with significant variations between domestic and international regulatory approaches are unnecessary or may impair the ability of American business to export and compete internationally. Similarly, the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96–39, as amended by Pub. L. 103–465), prohibits Federal agencies from establishing any standards or engaging in related activities that create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States. The statute also requires consideration of international standards and, where appropriate, that they be the basis for U.S. standards. Though PHMSA engages with international standards setting bodies to protect the safety of the American public, PHMSA has determined that the proposed regulatory amendments will not cause unnecessary obstacles to foreign trade.

L. Cybersecurity and Executive Order 14028

E.O. 14028 (*Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity;* 86 FR 26633 (May 17, 2021)) directs the Federal Government to improve its efforts to identify, deter, and respond to ''persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns.'' PHMSA has considered the effects of the proposed rule and expects that its regulatory amendments would not affect materially the cybersecurity risk profile for pipeline facilities or require pipeline operators to generate new security-sensitive records. This rule proposes to amend existing anomaly response obligations and operators are already familiar with anomaly response in their operation and maintenance plans and have evaluated their cybersecurity risks. Further, operators are encouraged to consult ongoing efforts by the Transportation Security Administration to strengthen cybersecurity and resiliency in the pipeline sector, and review cybersecurity guidance for pipeline operators issued by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency and the Pipeline Cybersecurity Initiative, which conduct ongoing activities to address cybersecurity risks to U.S. pipeline infrastructure. This guidance is available at *www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas/alerts.*

VIII. Regulatory Text

List of Subjects

49 CFR Part 192

Energy, Natural gas, Pipeline Safety.

49 CFR Part 195

Energy, Petroleum, Pipeline safety.

In consideration of the foregoing, PHMSA proposes to amend 49 CFR parts 192 and 195 as follows:

PART 192—TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL AND OTHER GAS BY PIPELINE: MINIMUM FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 192 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 185(w)(3), 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60101 *et seq.,* and 49 CFR 1.97.

■ 2. Amend § 192.7 by

■ a. Adding paragraphs (b)(13) and (14),

■ b. Revising paragraph (c)(4),

■ c. Amending paragraph (c)(6) by removing the words ''§ 192.714(c);'' and ''§ 192.933(c) and (d);'', and

■ d. Adding paragraph (g).

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 192.7 What documents are incorporated by reference partly or wholly in this part?

* * * * *

(b) * * *

* * * * *

(13) API Recommended Practice 1183, Assessment and Management of Pipeline Dents, First Edition, November 2020, including errata 1 (January 2021) and addendum 1 (May 2024) (API RP 1183); IBR approved for § 192.712(c).

(14) API 579–1/ASME FFS–1, Fitness-For-Service, 2021 edition, December 2021 (API–579–1/ASME FFS–1); IBR approved for § 192.712(b) and (d).

(c) * * *

* * * * *

(4) ASME/ANSI B31G–2023, Manual for Determining the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipelines, 2023, (ASME/ANSI B31G); IBR approved for §§ 192.485(c), 192.632(a), 192.712(b) and 192.714.

* * * * *

(g) Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle), 505 King Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201; phone: (800) 201–2011; website: *https://www.battelle.org.*

(1) Kiefner & Associates, Final Report No. 13–002, ''Models for Predicting Failure Stress Levels for Defects Affecting ERW and Flash-Welded Seams,'' January 3, 2013, (Report No. 13–002), IBR approved for § 192.712(d).

(2) [Reserved]

* * * * *

§ 192.18 [Amended]

■ 3. Amend § 192.18(c) by removing the text ''§ 192.714,'' and ''§ 192.933,''.

§ 192.607 [Amended]

■ 4. Amend § 192.607(b) by removing the phrase ''Charpy v-notch toughness'' and adding in its place the word ''Toughness.''

§ 192.632 [Amended]

■ 5. Amend § 192.632(c)(5) and (6) by removing the text ''192.713'' and adding in its place the text ''192.711.''

■ 6. Amend § 192.710 by revising paragraph (d) and removing paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

§ 192.710 Transmission lines: Assessments outside of high consequence areas.

* * * * *

(d) *Data analysis.* An operator must analyze and account for all relevant information in complying with this section to determine if a condition could adversely affect the safe operation of the pipeline. Personnel qualified by knowledge, training, and experience must analyze the data.

■ 7. Revise § 192.711 to read as follows:

§ 192.711 Transmission lines: General requirements for repair procedures.

(a) An operator must make repairs in a safe and timely manner.

(b) An operator must maintain operating pressure at a safe level during repair operations.

(c) An operator may not use a welded patch as a means of repair, except as provided in § 192.717(b)(3).

(d) All conditions scheduled for repair under § 192.714, and each leak, imperfection, or damage that impairs serviceability found in a pipeline operated at or above 40 percent of the SMYS, must be:

(1) Permanently repaired by removing the anomaly through cutting out and replacing a cylindrical piece of pipe, or repairing the anomaly using a method that reliable engineering tests and analyses show can permanently restore the serviceability of the pipe or other methods for leak repair in accordance with § 192.717.

(2) Until permanent repair is complete, take immediate temporary measures to protect the public, property, and the environment.

■ 8. Revise § 192.712 to read as follows:

§ 192.712 Analysis of predicted failure pressure and critical strain level.

(a) *General.* Analysis of anomalies under this part must be performed by a qualified subject matter expert and include uncertainties in reported assessment results (including tool tolerance) and model accuracy when identifying and characterizing the type and dimensions of anomalies.

(b) *Corrosion metal loss.* To analyze corrosion metal loss, an operator must calculate the predicted failure pressure (PFP) of the pipe using ASME/ANSI B31G, R–STRENG, or API 579–1/ASME FFS–1 (incorporated by reference, *see* § 192.7). Another technically accepted remaining strength model may be used where demonstrated to provide comparable results.

(c) *Dents.* To perform an engineering critical assessment (ECA) of the strain and remaining life of dents with a depth of 10 percent or less of the pipe outside diameter, an operator must have and follow written procedures that are consistent with API RP 1183 (incorporated by reference, *see* § 192.7) and the following minimum requirements:

(1) Identify and evaluate potential threats that could affect the dent, paying particular attention to ground movement, external loading, fatigue, cracking, and corrosion.

(2) Review ILI data necessary to create a dent profile and identify any potential interacting features within an

appropriate size dent area, including associated weld regions.

(3) Compare the dent profile for changes in depth and shape between the current ILI results and all previous results that showed the dent.

(4) Identify and quantify all previous and present loads acting on the dent.

(5) Perform pipeline curvature-based strain analysis using high-resolution deformation inspection data.

(6) Evaluate the strain level of the dent and interacting threat, loads, and welds using level 3 finite element analysis and quantify damage at the dent using the strain limit damage and ductile failure damage indicator.

(7) Estimate the fatigue life of the dent by level 3 finite element analysis using operational pressure data and an appropriate fatigue life prediction model with a safety factor of two or greater. Where the estimated fatigue life is less than the reassessment period under §§ 192.710 or 192.939, remediate dents in accordance with § 192.714.

(8) For dents with suspected cracking, conduct a crack growth rate assessment.

An operator must submit ECA procedures to PHMSA using the notification and no-objection process in § 192.18(c). As part of that submission, an operator may request to use another technology or methodology that is demonstrated to identify reliably anomalies that would be actionable when following the requirements in this section.

(d) *Crack and crack-like anomalies.* To analyze cracks and crack-like anomalies, an operator must determine PFP, crack growth, and remaining life (including corrosion rate for selective seam weld corrosion) using a technically proven fracture mechanics model appropriate to the failure mode (ductile, brittle or both), pipe and weld material properties, site conditions, and boundary condition used (pressure test, ILI, or other). These models include API 579–1/ASME FFS–1 level II or III, the Battelle NG–18 Modified Ln-Sec or Raju-Newman equations referenced in Appendix B of Report No. 13–002 (incorporated by reference, *see* § 192.7).

(1) An operator must calculate the remaining life of the pipeline based on the amount of time required for the crack to grow to a size that would fail at MAOP using a toughness value established in paragraph (e) of this section after determining the initial and final flaw size. Before reaching half of the remaining life predicted by the analysis, an operator must recalculate the remaining life using the actual operating pressure history and any intervening assessment information; continue to repeat before half of the remaining life last calculated lapses.

(2) Where ILI data of the crack anomaly is not available and pressure test results are used, the crack analysis must calculate the largest potential crack size that could have survived the pressure test.

(3) Whenever a pipeline is exposed to examine an indication of a crack from an assessment or to complete any examination on a segment where cracking is determined to be a threat, an operator must perform a direct examination of known locations of cracks or crack-like anomalies using technology that has been validated to detect tight cracks (equal to or less than 0.008 inches crack opening), such as inverse wave field extrapolation (IWEX), phased array ultrasonic testing (PAUT), ultrasonic testing (UT), or equivalent technology. ''In situ'' examination must include performance and evaluation standards for accuracy of the type of defects and pipe material being evaluated.

(e) *Material properties.* In analyzing anomalies, an operator must use pipe and material properties that are documented in traceable, verifiable, and complete records or obtain any necessary data or information through the process specified in § 192.607(c) through (e). If any pipe and material properties are not yet documented, the operator must use the following:

(1) For material toughness, use one of:

(i) Toughness values from comparable pipe with known properties of the same vintage from the same steel and pipe manufacturer.

(ii) Toughness values based upon the ongoing material properties verification process specified in § 192.607.

(iii) The maximum Charpy v-notch toughness value in Table 1 to § 192.712(e)(1) for the type of crack and the operating history of the pipeline, but where assessment results are obtained by pressure test, use a full size equivalent Charpy v-notch upper-shelf toughness level of 120 ft.-lbs.

TABLE 1 TO § 192.712(e)(1) DEFAULT FULL SIZE CHARPY V-NOTCH TOUGHNESS VALUES

Reportable incident on the pipeline segment caused by cracking or crack-like anomalies	Crack is on the pipe body	Crack is due to cold weld, lack of fusion, or selective seam weld corrosion anomalies
No	19.0 ft.-lbs	9.0 ft.-lbs.
Yes	14.0 ft.-lbs	4.0 ft.-lbs.

(iv) Alternative values demonstrated to provide appropriate toughness for crack-related conditions through the notification and no-objection process in § 192.18(c).

(2) For material strength, use Grade A pipe (30,000 psi) or the SMYS that is the basis for the current MAOP.

(3) For pipe wall thickness, diameter, and other data, use the values relied upon in establishing MAOP.

(f) *Records.* An operator must keep for the life of the pipeline records of the investigations, analyses, and other actions taken in accordance with the requirements of this section.

§ 192.713 [Removed]

■ 9. Remove § 192.713.

■ 10. Revise § 192.714 to read as follows:

§ 192.714 Transmission Lines: Response criteria.

(a) *Applicability.* These response criteria apply to assessments of onshore gas transmission pipelines, except for pipelines that operate under an alternative MAOP established in accordance with §§ 192.112, 192.328, and 192.620.

(b) *Discovery of condition.* Discovery occurs when an operator has adequate information to determine that an anomaly presents a potential threat to the integrity of the pipeline. An operator must establish procedures for the discovery of anomalies that present a potential threat to the integrity of the pipeline, including all anomalies specified in this section. The procedures must identify the relevant sources of information and prescribe the criteria and schedule that will be used in discovery. The criteria and schedule in the procedures must include provisions for expediting the discovery of immediate conditions and for requiring that the discovery of any other anomaly needing response occur within 180 days of the date the ILI tool was retrieved or the date of the final observation.

(c) *Anomaly analysis.* Operators must follow the requirements in § 192.712 in determining predicted failure pressures, remaining life, and critical strain levels.

As used in this section, the ''failure pressure ratio'' (FPR) is the predicted failure pressure divided by the MAOP at the time when discovery occurs. When applying FPR criteria to anomalies on pipe of Class 1 design pipe that is operated in accordance with § 192.611(a)(4), use the FPR criteria corresponding to Class 1.

(d) *Schedule for evaluation and remediation.* An operator must establish a schedule for remediating or monitoring each anomaly in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) *Immediate conditions.* Remediate the following anomalies immediately upon discovery, consistent with section 7 of ASME B31.8S (incorporated by reference, *see* § 192.7):

(i) Any of the following anomalies with an FPR of 1.1 and below:

(A) Metal loss, except when established using the plausible profiles method described in section 2.3(b) of ANSI/ASME B31G (incorporated by reference, *see* 192.7) use an FPR of 1.25 and below in Class 1 locations and 1.5 in Class 2, Class 3, or Class 4 locations.

(B) Metal loss preferentially affecting a detected longitudinal seam formed by direct current electric resistance welding, low-frequency electric resistance welding, electric flash welding, or that has a longitudinal joint factor less than 1.0.

(C) Crack or crack-like anomaly.

(ii) Crack or crack-like anomaly with a depth plus any metal loss greater than either 70 percent of nominal wall thickness or the maximum sizing capabilities of the ILI tool.

(iii) Metal loss greater than 80 percent of nominal wall thickness.

(iv) A dent located between the 8:00 o'clock and 4:00 o'clock positions (upper ⅔ of the pipe) that has cracking, gouging, a stress riser, or metal loss (other than metal loss not caused by mechanical damage that does not exceed 10 percent of the nominal wall thickness), except where an ECA demonstrates that critical strain levels are not exceeded or that geometric strain levels are less than 10 percent.

(v) Any anomaly that requires immediate action in the judgment of the person designated by the operator to evaluate the assessment results.

(2) *Near-term conditions.* Remediate the following anomalies within 1 year of discovery for covered segments subject to § 192.933, and within two years of discovery for all other pipeline segments:

(i) The following dents, unless an ECA demonstrates that critical strain levels are not exceeded or that geometric strain levels are less than 10 percent:

(A) A smooth dent located between the 8:00 o'clock and 4:00 o'clock positions (upper ⅔ of the pipe) with a depth greater than six percent of the pipeline diameter (greater than 0.50 inches in depth for a pipeline diameter less than Nominal Pipe Size (NPS) 12).

(B) A dent located between the 4:00 o'clock and 8:00 o'clock positions (lower ⅓ of the pipe) that has cracking, gouging, a stress riser, or metal loss (excluding metal loss not caused by mechanical damage that does not exceed 10 percent of the nominal wall thickness).

(C) A dent with a depth greater than two percent of the pipeline's diameter (0.250 inches in depth for a pipeline diameter less than NPS 12) that affects pipe curvature at a girth weld or at a longitudinal or helical (spiral) seam weld.

(ii) Any of the following anomalies with an FPR below 1.39 for Class 1 locations or below 1.5 in Class 2, Class 3, or Class 4 locations:

(A) Metal loss that is located at a crossing of another pipeline, that is in an area with widespread circumferential corrosion, or that could affect a girth weld.

(B) Metal loss preferentially affecting a longitudinal seam formed by direct current electric resistance welding, low-frequency or high-frequency electric resistance welding, electric flash welding, or that has a longitudinal joint factor less than 1.0.

(C) A crack or a crack-like anomaly.

(iii) A crack or a crack-like anomaly with a depth greater than 50 percent but less than or equal to 70 percent of the nominal wall thickness.

(iv) Any other metal loss with an FPR below 1.39 for Class 2 locations, or below 1.50 for Class 3 and Class 4 locations.

(3) *Other conditions.* If an anomaly does not require a response under the criteria in paragraphs (d)(1) and (2) of this section, schedule response and remediation in accordance with Figure 7.2.1–1 in ASME B31.8S or the interval provided by § 192.712(c)(8). Any other anomaly, including all other dents managed with an ECA or that exceed 6 percent depth, must be recorded and monitored during subsequent assessments for any change that may require remediation.

(e) *Remediation and repair.* (1) An operator must use material property information meeting the requirements in § 192.712(e) in performing repairs.

(2) *Temporary pressure reduction.* Upon discovery of an immediate condition or when a near-term condition cannot be repaired within the time specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, an operator must take prompt action by temporarily reducing the operating pressure of the pipeline to a pressure at or below 80 percent of the operating pressure at the time of discovery or the predicted failure pressure times the design factor for the current class location. The temporary pressure reduction must remain in place until the condition is repaired. An operator must submit a notification under § 192.18(a)–(b) if:

(i) an anomaly cannot be repaired within the time limits of this section and safety cannot be maintained through a temporary pressure reduction or other remediation action, or

(ii) a temporary pressure reduction exceeds 365 days.

§ 192.719 [Amended]

■ 11. Amend § 192.719(b) by removing the text ''192.713'' and adding in its place the text ''192.711.''

■ 12. Revise § 192.933 to read as follows:

§ 192.933 What actions must be taken to address integrity issues?

An operator must comply with the requirements in §§ 192.712 and 192.714 in evaluating and responding to anomalies discovered on covered segments.

PART 195—TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS BY PIPELINE

■ 13. The authority citation for part 195 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 185(w)(3), 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60101 *et seq.,* and 49 CFR 1.97.

■ 14. Amend § 195.3 by:

■ a. Redesignating paragraphs (b)(2) through (23) as follows:

Old paragraph	New paragraph
Paragraph (b)(2)	Paragraph (b)(3).
Paragraph (b)(3)	Paragraph (b)(4).
Paragraph (b)(4)	Paragraph (b)(5).
Paragraph (b)(5)	Paragraph (b)(6).
Paragraph (b)(6)	Paragraph (b)(7).
Paragraph (b)(7)	Paragraph (b)(8).
Paragraph (b)(8)	Paragraph (b)(10).
Paragraph (b)(9)	Paragraph (b)(11).
Paragraph (b)(10)	Paragraph (b)(12).
Paragraph (b)(11)	Paragraph (b)(14).
Paragraph (b)(12)	Paragraph (b)(15).
Paragraph (b)(13)	Paragraph (b)(16).
Paragraph (b)(14)	Paragraph (b)(17).
Paragraph (b)(15)	Paragraph (b)(18).
Paragraph (b)(16)	Paragraph (b)(19).
Paragraph (b)(17)	Paragraph (b)(20).
Paragraph (b)(18)	Paragraph (b)(21).
Paragraph (b)(19)	Paragraph (b)(22).
Paragraph (b)(20)	Paragraph (b)(23).
Paragraph (b)(21)	Paragraph (b)(24).
Paragraph (b)(22)	Paragraph (b)(25).
Paragraph (b)(23)	Paragraph (b)(26).

■ b. Adding paragraphs (b)(2), (b)(9), and (b)(13);
■ c. Revising new paragraph (b)(16);
■ d. Redesignating paragraphs (c)(1) through (7) as paragraphs (c)(2) through (8);
■ e. Adding new paragraph (c)(1);
■ f. Revising newly redesignated paragraphs (c)(3) through (4);
■ g. Redesignating paragraphs (g) through (i) as paragraphs (h) through (j)
■ h. Adding paragraph (g); and
■ i. Revising newly redesignated paragraph (j).

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 195.3 What documents are incorporated by reference partly or wholly in this part?

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(2) API 579–1/ASME FFS–1, Fitness-For-Service, 2021 edition, December 2021 (API–579–1/ASME FFS–1); IBR approved for § 195.415(b) and (d).

* * * * *

(9) API Recommended Practice 1160, Managing System Integrity for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines, Third Edition, February 2019, reaffirmed March 2024 (API RP 1160); IBR approved for § 195.416(g).

* * * * *

(13) API Recommended Practice 1183, Assessment and Management of Pipeline Dents, First Edition, November 2020, including errata 1 (January 2021) and addendum 1 (May 2024) (API RP 1183); IBR approved for § 195.415(c).

* * * * *

(16) API Specification 5L, Line Pipe, 46th edition, April 2018, including Errata 1 (May 2018), (API Spec 5L); IBR approved for §§ 195.106(b) and (e) and 195.407(b).

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(1) ASME/ANSI B16.5–2003, 'Pipe Flanges and Flanged Fittings,' October 2004, ASME/ANSI B16.5); IBR approved for § 195.407(e).

* * * * *

(3) ASME/ANSI B31G–2023, Manual for Determining the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipelines, 2023, (ASME/ANSI B31G); IBR approved for §§ 195.415(b) and 195.453(d).

(4) ASME B31.4–2022, Pipeline Transportation Systems for Liquids and Slurries: ASME Code for Pressure Piping, B31, issued December 8, 2022, (ASME B31.4); IBR approved for §§ 195.110(a) and 195.422(b).

* * * * *

(g) Battelle Memorial Institute (Battelle), 505 King Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201; phone: (800) 201–2011; website: *https://www.battelle.org.*

(1) Kiefner & Associates, Final Report No. 13–002, Models for Predicting Failure Stress Levels for Defects Affecting ERW and Flash-Welded Seams, January 3, 2013, (Report No. 13–002); IBR approved for § 195.415(d).

(2) [Reserved]

* * * * *

(j) Pipeline Research Council International, Inc. (PRCI), 15059 Conference Center Drive Suite 130, Chantilly, VA 20151; phone: (703) 205–1600; website: *www.prci.org.*

(1) AGA Pipeline Research Committee, Project PR–3–805, A Modified Criterion for Evaluating the Remaining Strength of Corroded Pipe, December 22, 1989, (PR–3–805 (RSTRENG)); IBR approved for § 195.415(b).

(2) [Reserved]

* * * * *

§ 195.18 [Amended]

■ 15. Amend § 195.18(c) by adding the text ''§ 195.415, § 195.416,'' after the text ''§ 195.260,''.

§ 195.266 [Removed]

■ 16. Remove § 195.266.
■ 17. Revise § 195.401(b) to read as follows:

§ 195.401 General requirements.

* * * * *

(b) A pipeline segment containing a condition that presents an immediate hazard to persons or property may not be operated until the condition is repaired.

* * * * *

■ 18. Amend § 195.404 as follows:
■ a. Republish the introductory text of paragraphs (a) and (a)(1),
■ b. Redesignate paragraphs (a)(1)(vi) and (vii) as paragraphs (a)(1)(viii) and (ix),
■ c. Add paragraphs (a)(1)(vi), (a)(1)(vii), and (a)(5),
■ d. Revise paragraph (c), and
■ e. Add paragraph (d).

The revisions and additions read as follows:

§ 195.404 Maps and records.

(a) Each operator shall maintain current maps and records of its pipeline systems that include at least the following information:

(1) Location and identification of the following pipeline facilities:

* * * * *

(vi) Overhead crossings;

(vii) Corrosion test stations;

* * * * *

(5) Depth and type of cover.

* * * * *

(c) Each operator shall maintain records of each inspection and test required by this subpart for the longer of 2 years or until the next inspection or test.

(d) Each operator shall maintain the following records for the life of the pipeline:

(1) The date, location, and description of each repair made, except that records related to repair made to parts of the pipeline system other than pipe may be kept for 1 year.

(2) Records necessary to reproduce analysis conducted in accordance with § 195.415.

(3) Records of actions taken in accordance with § 195.407, including results, investigations, and analyses.

(4) The total number of girth welds and the number nondestructively tested, including the number rejected and the disposition of each rejected weld.

(e) The following records must be made and retained for steel pipelines installed after [INSERT EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE RULE], and existing records must be retained for all other pipelines:

(1) *Material properties.* Records documenting the pipe diameter, yield strength, ultimate tensile strength, wall thickness, seam type, and chemical composition of pipe materials.

(2) *Pipe design.* Records documenting the location of the pipe and determination of internal design pressure, including any anticipated external pressures and loads.

(3) *Pipeline components.* Records documenting the manufacturing standard and pressure rating to which each valve was manufactured and tested. Flanges, fittings, branch connections, extruded outlets, anchor forgings, and other components with material yield strength grades of 42,000 psi (X42) or greater and with nominal diameters greater than 2 inches—or appurtenances of any size that are directly installed on the pipeline and cannot be isolated from mainline pipeline pressures—must have records documenting the manufacturing standard or specification in effect at the time of manufacture. Necessary material records include yield strength, ultimate tensile strength, and chemical composition.

■ 19. Add § 195.407 to read as follows:

§ 195.407 Verification of Pipeline Material Properties and Attributes.

(a) *Verification of material properties and attributes.* Where an operator does not have, and uses this section to obtain, traceable, verifiable, and complete records for material properties and attributes, the operator must develop and implement procedures in accordance with this section. The

procedures must include conducting nondestructive or destructive tests, examinations, or assessments to obtain the necessary information at each exposed pipe and component during: anomaly direct examinations, *in situ* evaluations, repairs, remediations, maintenance, and excavations associated with the replacement or relocation of pipeline segments that are removed from service.

(b) *Requirements for destructive tests:* At each test location, conduct tests on each pipe cylinder removed from the pipeline to obtain its material properties. Tests must be performed in accordance with API Spec 5L (incorporated by reference, *see* § 195.3).

(c) *Requirements for nondestructive tests.* An operator must:

(1) Use methods, tools, procedures, and techniques that have been validated by a subject matter expert based on a comparison with the destructive test results on material of comparable grade and vintage;

(2) Account for measurement inaccuracy and uncertainty using reliable engineering tests and analyses;

(3) Use test equipment properly calibrated for comparable test materials prior to usage; and

(4) At each test location, the necessary material properties must be determined at a minimum of five places in at least two circumferential quadrants of the pipe for a minimum total of 10 test readings at each pipe cylinder location.

(d) *Line pipe sampling requirements.* To verify the material properties and attributes for a population of multiple, comparable segments of pipe, except as provided in paragraph (d)(3), an operator must use a sampling program that meets the following requirements:

(1) *Establish populations.* An operator must define separate populations of similar segments of pipe for each combination of the following material properties and attributes: diameter, nominal wall thicknesses, grade, manufacturing process, pipe manufacturing dates, and construction dates. Segments may not be considered the same vintage for the purpose of defining a population under this section if either the dates of manufacture or construction of the segments are more than two years apart. The total population mileage is the cumulative mileage of pipeline segments in the population. The pipeline segments need not be continuous.

(2) *Samples required.* For each population, the operator must determine the material properties at all excavations that expose the pipe (except for pipeline segments exposed during excavation activities pursuant to § 195.442) associated with anomaly direct examinations, *in situ* evaluations, repairs, remediations, or maintenance, as follows:

(i) Completion of one excavation per mile rounded up to the nearest whole number or 150 excavations, whichever is fewer.

(ii) Prior tests conducted for a single excavation according to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section may be counted as one sample under the sampling requirements of paragraph (d) of this section.

(iii) If the test results identify line pipe with properties that are not consistent with available information, existing expectations, or assumed properties used for past operations and maintenance, the operator must establish an expanded sampling program that is consistent with the requirements specified in paragraph (d)(3) of this section.

(3) *Alternative sampling approach.* An operator may use an alternative statistical sampling approach that differs from the requirements specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section. The alternative sampling approach must:

(i) Use valid statistical bases designed to achieve at least a 95 percent confidence level that the material properties used in the operation and maintenance of the pipeline are valid; and

(ii) Address how the sampling approach will be expanded to address findings that reveal the material properties not consistent with all available information, existing expectations, or assumed material properties used for pipeline operations and maintenance in the past.

(iii) Operators must notify PHMSA in advance of using an alternative sampling approach in accordance with § 195.18(a) and (b).

(e) *Components.* (1) An operator must verify the material properties for non-line pipe components, including valves, flanges, fittings, fabricated assemblies, and other pressure retaining components and appurtenances, that are:

(i) Larger than two inches in nominal outside diameter,

(ii) Material grades of 42,000 psi (Grade X–42) or greater, or

(iii) Appurtenances of any size that are directly installed on the pipeline and cannot be isolated from mainline pipeline pressures.

(2) An operator is not required to test for the chemical and mechanical properties of components at pump stations, meter stations, river crossing headers, mainline valve assemblies, valve operator piping, cross connections with isolation valves from the mainline pipeline, or breakout tanks.

(3) An operator must establish and document the ANSI rating or pressure rating of non-line pipe and associated material properties.

(4) An operator must base its procedures for establishing the material properties of non-line pipe components on the documented manufacturing specification for the components. If the specifications are not known, an operator may use manufacturer-stamped, marked, or tagged material pressure ratings and types to establish the pressure rating. An operator must document the method it uses to determine the pressure rating and the findings of that determination.

(f) *Uprating.* The material properties determined from the destructive or nondestructive tests required by this section cannot be used to raise the grade or specification of the material, unless the original grade or specification is unknown and the maximum operating pressure is based on an assumed yield strength of 24,000 psi in accordance with § 195.106(b)(2).

■ 20. Add § 195.415 to read as follows:

§ 195.415 Anomaly evaluation.

(a) *General.* Analysis of anomalies under this part must be performed by a qualified subject matter expert and include uncertainties in reported assessment results (including tool tolerance) and model accuracy when identifying and characterizing the type and dimensions of anomalies.

(b) *Corrosion metal loss.* To analyze corrosion metal loss, an operator must calculate the predicted failure pressure (PFP) of the pipe using ASME/ANSI B31G, R–STRENG, API 579–1/ASME FFS–1 (incorporated by reference, *see* § 195.3). Another technically accepted remaining strength model may be used where demonstrated to provide comparable results.

(c) *Dents.* To perform an engineering critical assessment (ECA) of the strain and remaining life of dents with a depth of 10 percent or less of the pipe outside diameter, an operator must have and follow written procedures that are consistent with API RP 1183 (incorporated by reference, *see* § 195.3) and the following minimum requirements:

(1) Identify and evaluate potential threats that could affect the dent, paying particular attention to ground movement, external loading, fatigue, cracking, and corrosion.

(2) Review ILI data necessary to create a dent profile and identify any potential interacting features within an

appropriate size dent area, including associated weld regions.

(3) Compare the dent profile for changes in depth and shape between the current ILI results and all previous results that showed the dent.

(4) Identify and quantify all previous and present loads acting on the dent.

(5) Perform pipeline curvature-based strain analysis using high-resolution deformation inspection data.

(6) Evaluate the strain level of the dent and interacting threats, loads, and welds using level 3 finite element analysis (FEA) and quantify damage at the dent using the strain limit damage and ductile failure damage indicator.

(7) Estimate the fatigue life of the dent by level 3 FEA using operational pressure data and an appropriate fatigue life prediction model with a safety factor of five or greater. Where the estimated fatigue life is less than the reassessment period under §§ 195.416 or 195.452, remediate dents in accordance with §§ 195.416 or 195.453.

(8) For dents with suspected cracking, conduct a crack growth rate assessment.

Submit ECA procedures to PHMSA using the notification and no-objection process in § 195.18(c). As part of that submission, an operator may request to use another technology or methodology that is demonstrated to identify reliably anomalies that would be actionable when following the requirements in this section.

(d) *Crack and crack-like anomalies.* To analyze cracks and crack-like anomalies, an operator must determine PFP, crack growth, and remaining life (including corrosion rate for selective seam weld corrosion) using a technically proven fracture mechanics model appropriate to the failure mode (ductile, brittle or both), pipe and weld material properties, site conditions, and boundary condition used (pressure test, ILI, or other). These models include API 579–1/ASME FFS–1 level II or III, the Battelle NG–18 Modified Ln-Sec or Raju-Newman equations referenced in Appendix B of Report No. 13–002 (incorporated by reference, *see* § 195.3).

(1) An operator must calculate the remaining life of the pipeline based on the amount of time required for the crack to grow to a size that would fail at MOP using a toughness value established in paragraph (e) of this section after determining the initial and final flaw size. Before reaching half of the remaining life predicted by the analysis, an operator must recalculate the remaining life using the actual operating pressure history and any intervening assessment information; continue to repeat before half of the remaining life last calculated lapses.

(2) Where ILI data of the crack anomaly is not available and pressure test results are used, the crack analysis must calculate the largest potential crack size that could have survived the pressure test.

(3) Whenever a pipeline is exposed to examine an indication of a crack from an assessment or to complete any examination on a segment where cracking is determined to be a threat, an operator must perform a direct examination of known locations of cracks or crack-like anomalies using technology that has been validated to detect tight cracks (equal to or less than 0.008 inches crack opening), such as inverse wave field extrapolation (IWEX), phased array ultrasonic testing (PAUT), ultrasonic testing (UT), or equivalent technology. *In situ* examination must include performance and evaluation standards for accuracy of the type of defects and pipe material being evaluated.

(e) *Material properties.* In analyzing anomalies, an operator must use pipe and material properties that are documented in traceable, verifiable, and complete records or obtain any necessary data or information through the process specified in § 195.407. If any pipe and material properties are not yet documented, the operator must use the following:

(1) For material toughness, use one of the following:

(i) Toughness values from comparable pipe with known properties of the same vintage from the same steel and pipe manufacturer.

(ii) Toughness values based upon the ongoing material properties verification process specified in § 195.407.

(iii) The maximum Charpy v-notch toughness value in Table 1 to § 195.415(e)(1) for the type of crack and the operating history of the pipeline, but where assessment results are obtained by pressure test, use a full size equivalent Charpy v-notch upper-shelf toughness level of 120 ft.-lbs.

TABLE 1 TO § 195.415(e)(1) DEFAULT CHARPY V-NOTCH TOUGHNESS VALUES

Reportable incident on the pipeline segment caused by cracking or crack-like anomalies	Crack is on the pipe body	Crack is due to cold weld, lack of fusion, or selective seam weld corrosion anomalies
No	19.0 ft.-lbs	9.0 ft.-lbs.
Yes	14.0 ft.-lbs	4.0 ft.-lbs.

(iv) Alternative values demonstrated to provide appropriate toughness for crack-related conditions through the notification and no-objection process in § 195.18(c).

(2) For material strength, use Grade A pipe (30,000 psi).

(3) For wall thickness, diameter, and other data, use the values relied upon in establishing the operating stress.

■ 21. Amend § 195.416 by revising paragraph (d), removing and reserving paragraph (f), and revising paragraph (g) to read as follows:

§ 195.416 Pipeline assessments.

* * * * *

(d) *Other technology.* Operators may elect to use other technologies if the operator demonstrates, subject to the notification and no-objection process in § 195.18(c), that the technology can provide an equivalent understanding of the condition of the line pipe for the threat being assessed.

* * * * *

(f) [Reserved]

(g) *Remediation.* An operator must discover and address anomalies identified during integrity assessments under this section in accordance with § 195.453(b) and API RP 1160, section 9.2.3 (incorporated by reference, *see* § 195.3).

* * * * *

■ 22. Revise § 195.422 to read as follows:

§ 195.422 Pipeline repairs.

(a) An operator must repair within a reasonable time any condition that could adversely affect the safe operation of a pipeline. Prioritize repairs considering the risk to people, property, and the environment.

(b) The operating pressure of the pipeline segment must be maintained at a safe level during repair operations to prevent damage to people, property, or the environment.

(c) Permanent pipeline repairs must be selected in accordance with the provisions in ASME B31.4, Tables 451.6.2.9–1 and 451.6.2.9–2 (incorporated by reference, see § 195.3) or by another method shown by reliable engineering tests and analyses to restore the serviceability of the pipe permanently.

(d) No operator may use any pipe, valve, or fitting, for replacement in repairing pipeline facilities unless it is designed and constructed as required by this part.

■ 23. In § 195.452, revise paragraph (f)(4) and remove and reserve paragraph (h) to read as follows:

§ 195.452 Pipeline integrity management in high consequence areas.

* * * * *

(f) * * *

(4) Discovery and response to anomalies in accordance with § 195.453 and information analysis.

* * * * *

■ 24. Add § 195.453 to read as follows:

§ 195.453 Response Criteria for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines

(a) *General.* Anomalies discovered during an integrity assessment of a covered segment must be addressed in accordance with this section.

(b) *Discovery of condition.* Discovery occurs when an operator has adequate information to determine that an anomaly presents a potential threat to the integrity of the pipeline. An operator must establish procedures for the discovery of anomalies that present a potential threat to the integrity of the pipeline, including all anomalies specified in this section. The procedures must identify the relevant sources of information and prescribe the criteria and schedule that will be used in discovery. The criteria and schedule in the procedures must include provisions for expediting the discovery of immediate conditions and for requiring that the discovery of any other anomaly needing response occur within 180 days of the date the ILI tool was retrieved or the date of the final observation.

(c) *Anomaly analysis.* Operators must follow the requirements in § 195.415 in determining predicted failure pressures, remaining life, and critical strain levels. As used in this section, the ''failure pressure ratio'' (FPR) is the predicted failure pressure divided by the MOP at the time when discovery occurs.

(d) *Schedule for evaluation and remediation.* An operator must establish a schedule for remediating or monitoring each anomaly in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) *Immediate conditions.* Remediate the following anomalies immediately upon discovery and maintain safety by reducing the operating pressure in accordance with paragraph (e) of this section or shutting down the pipeline until the anomaly is repaired:

(i) Any of the following anomalies with an FPR of 1.1 and below:

(A) Metal loss, except when established using the plausible profiles method described in section 2.3(b) of ANSI/ASME B31G (incorporated by reference, *see* 195.3) use an FPR of 1.25 and below.

(B) Metal loss preferentially affecting a detected longitudinal seam formed by direct current, low-frequency electric resistance welding, electric flash welding, or has a longitudinal joint factor less than 1.0.

(C) Crack or crack-like anomaly.

(ii) Crack or crack-like anomaly with depth plus any metal loss greater than 70 percent of the nominal wall thickness or with depth that exceeds the maximum sizing capabilities of the ILI tool.

(iii) Metal loss greater than 80 percent of nominal wall thickness.

(iv) The following dents, unless an ECA demonstrates that critical strain levels are not exceeded and that geometric strain levels are less than 10 percent.

(A) A dent that has any indication of cracking, gouging, stress riser, or metal loss (excluding corrosion metal loss that is both determined to not be caused by mechanical damage and the depth of metal loss does not exceed 10 percent of the nominal wall thickness).

(B) A dent located between the 8:00 o'clock and 4:00 o'clock positions (upper ⅔ of the pipe) (above the 4:00 and 8:00 o'clock positions) with a depth greater than six percent of the nominal pipe diameter.

(v) Any anomaly that requires immediate action in the judgment of the person designated by the operator to evaluate the assessment results.

(2) *Near-term conditions.* Remediate the following anomalies within 1 year of discovery:

(i) The following dents, unless an ECA demonstrates that critical strain levels are not exceeded or that geometric strain levels are less than 10 percent:

(A) A dent located between the 8:00 o'clock and 4:00 o'clock positions (upper ⅔ of the pipe) with a depth greater than two percent of the pipeline's diameter (0.250 inches in depth for a pipeline diameter less than NPS 12).

(B) A dent located between the 4:00 o'clock and 8:00 o'clock positions (lower ⅓ of the pipe) with a depth greater than six percent of the pipeline's diameter.

(C) A dent with a depth greater than two percent of the pipeline's diameter (0.250 inches in depth for a pipeline diameter less than NPS 12) that affects pipe curvature at a girth weld, longitudinal seam weld, or helical (spiral) seam weld.

(ii) Any of the following anomalies with an FPR of 1.39 and below:

(A) Metal loss, including an area with general corrosion.

(B) Crack or crack-like anomaly.

(iii) Metal loss preferentially affecting a detected longitudinal seam, if that seam was formed by direct current, low-frequency or high-frequency electric resistance welding, electric flash welding, or with a longitudinal joint factor less than 1.0.

(iv) Crack or crack-like anomaly with a depth plus any metal loss greater than 50 percent and less than or equal to 70 percent of the nominal wall thickness.

(v) Localized corrosion pitting with a depth greater than 50 percent of the nominal wall thickness.

(vi) A gouge or groove greater than 12.5 percent of nominal wall.

(3) *Other Conditions.* If an anomaly that could impair the integrity of the pipeline does not require a response under the criteria in paragraphs (d)(1) and (2) of this section, schedule response and remediation in accordance with §§ 195.401(b)(2) and 195.452(c)(8) as appropriate. An operator must demonstrate that the remediation of the anomaly will ensure the condition is unlikely to pose a threat to the integrity of the pipeline until the next reassessment. Any other anomaly, including all other dents managed with an ECA, must be recorded and monitored during subsequent assessments for any change that may require remediation. Appendix C of this part contains guidance concerning other conditions that an operator should evaluate.

(e) *Remediation and repair.* (1) An operator must use material property information meeting the requirements in § 195.415(e) in performing repairs.

(2) *Temporary pressure reduction.* Upon discovery of an immediate condition or when a near-term condition cannot be repaired within the time specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section, an operator must temporarily reduce the operating pressure of the pipeline to a pressure at or below 80 percent of the operating pressure at the time of discovery or the predicted failure pressure times the design factor for the pipeline in § 195.106. The temporary pressure reduction must remain in place until the condition is

repaired. An operator must submit a notification under § 195.18(a)–(b) if:

(i) an anomaly cannot be repaired within the time limits of this section and safety cannot be maintained through a temporary pressure reduction or other remediation action, or

(ii) a temporary pressure reduction exceeds 365 days.

■ 26. In § 195.585, add paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 195.585 What must I do to correct corroded pipe?

* * * * *

(c) *Remaining Strength.* The strength of corroded pipe based on actual remaining wall thickness must be determined in accordance with § 195.415. These procedures apply to corroded regions that do not penetrate the pipe wall, subject to the limitations set out in the respective procedures.

§ 195.587 [Removed]

■ 27. Remove § 195.587.

§ 195.588 [Amended]

■ 28. Amend § 195.588(c)(4)(i) by:

■ a. Removing the text ''paragraph (b)(4)(ii)'' and adding in its place the text ''paragraph (c)(4)(ii),'' and

■ b. Removing the text ''using ASME/ANSI B31G or RSTRENG (incorporated by reference, *see* § 195.3)'' and adding in its place the text ''in accordance with § 195.415(b).''

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 6, 2026, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Keith Coyle,

Chief Counsel.

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FEDERAL REGISTER

Vol. 91 Wednesday,

No. 129 July 8, 2026

Part III

The President

Proclamation 11039—250th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Declaration of Independence

Federal Register
Vol. 91, No. 129
Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Presidential Documents

Title 3—

The President

Proclamation 11039 of July 3, 2026

250th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Declaration of Independence

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Two hundred and fifty years ago, the Founders of our great Republic gathered in Philadelphia to fulfill a God-given destiny—the freedom and Independence of the United States of America. Fifty-six men—representing legions of freedom-loving Patriots sprawled across 13 Colonies—pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to sign a legendary charter of freedom and declare America's promise that all men are created equal and have the sovereign right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. On that sweltering summer day in the heart of Pennsylvania, these noble Patriots not only raised up a new nation, but immortalized in our Declaration of Independence a series of sacred truths that transcend time and place—creating the single greatest force for virtue, peace, prosperity, and greatness on the face of the Earth.

In June of 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia rose before the Second Continental Congress and moved that the American Colonies cast off the bonds of British rule and stand among the civilizations of the Earth as free and independent states. Thomas Jefferson was entrusted with giving that historic resolve its language, laboring over every line until the Congress adopted his immortal words on a momentous July day. The 56 men who signed their names to Jefferson's Declaration pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to a single revolutionary truth: ''that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, and that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.''

For 8 long and bloody years, American patriots led by General George Washington took up arms to defend this creed, enduring brutal hardship and immeasurable sacrifice so that the flame of liberty might live. They fired the first shots of the Revolution at Lexington and Concord, held the line at Bunker Hill against great odds, crossed the icy Delaware on Christmas night to deliver a decisive blow against enemy forces, and endured the bitter winter of Valley Forge until the indominable spirit that would come to define our Nation humbled the mightiest military on Earth at Yorktown, securing for all posterity the blessings of American Liberty. It was this distinctly American Spirit of faith, grit, adventure, courage, resolve, and self-determination that breathed life into our Republic, and has unfailingly nurtured our Nation, our people, our liberty, and our way of life ever since.

From that hard-fought victory, a handful of colonies nestled on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean grew and within a few generations flourished into the strongest and wealthiest Republic in human history. Answering the call of destiny, Americans pressed westward across an untamed continent, turning open prairie into golden farmland and raising from the wilderness magnificent cities that towered above a vast and growing people. When civil war threatened to tear the Nation asunder, Americans fought and bled to preserve the Union, striking the shackles of slavery from millions and binding the country together once more. In the wake of that struggle, our

ancestors forged a new country in the fires of industry, building vast mills that poured molten steel, drilling deep for the oil that fueled their prosperity, and harnessing the power of electricity to light their cities and raise skyscrapers ever higher into the heavens. In the last century's darkest hours, it was the United States of America that emerged triumphant from two world wars, defeating the forces of evil at every turn and liberating millions around the globe from the cruelest tyrannies humanity has faced.

Time and again, the ingenuity of America has continued to defy the limits of the possible. Americans lifted humanity into the skies and walked upon the surface of the Moon, planting our beautiful flag in ancient dust where no other nation had ever stood, as our gaze turned toward the galaxies beyond. The inventions of American minds—the telephone, the personal computer, the internet—knit the world together as never before, opening a new age of connection and commerce that placed limitless knowledge at humanity's fingertips and carried the promise of prosperity to every corner of the Earth. In every field of science, American genius has cured what was once thought incurable, unraveled the mysteries of life itself, and pushed the boundaries of human knowledge further than any nation that has ever come before.

These monumental triumphs are the legacy of the men who willed our great Republic into existence, and the great American adventure that started on July 4, 1776, has only just begun. In our own time, the American journey carries on in every corner of our land, from the wheat fields of the Great Plains and the granite peaks of the Rockies to the sunlit shores of the Pacific and the bustling cities of the Atlantic coast, and the heart of the American People beats as strong and proud as ever. That strength springs from the unity of our people and from the timeless values passed down through the generations, chief among them an abiding faith in God, a fierce love of family and freedom, a tireless devotion to hard work, and the courage to lay down everything for a cause greater than ourselves. These are the virtues that have sustained us for over two-and-a-half centuries, and they will arm us for the many victories yet to be won.

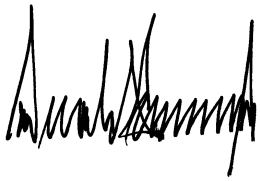
In this new era of American greatness, we will continue to reclaim our sovereignty, restore our territorial integrity, defend the God-given liberty proclaimed at our founding, and guard the proud heritage, history, and culture that have made our Nation a wonder for the ages. We will continue to adventure into the cosmos, returning Americans to the lunar surface for all time to come and charging ahead to plant the Stars and Stripes among the red dunes of Mars. We will seize the new frontiers of artificial intelligence and quantum discovery, unleash the boundless energy beneath our soil, and expand the wealth and abundance of the American People. We will defend our citizens and our way of life, answering every enemy with overwhelming strength and unflinching justice. We will cherish the sacred right to life and protect the innocent starting at life's very first moment. We will restore law and order to our streets and usher in a new era of prosperity, health, opportunity, and happiness for every American family. My Administration will not rest until every one of these sacred promises are kept. Guided by the wisdom of our Founders and the unyielding faith of our people, we will lead our Nation into a new American Golden Age. For a free and faithful people, no summit stands too high, no horizon is too distant to conquer, and no dream is too bold to achieve.

On this 250th anniversary of our glorious Independence, we once again acknowledge that our Nation was conceived in providence, born of the blood of heroes, and sustained through the generations of freedom-loving patriots who gave their lives, toil, and treasure to keep the American Spirit alive. We vow to remain ever watchful and vigilant so that this legacy of liberty will endure in the face of every challenge. We remember that our Republic was begotten in courage, and that only courage will ensure its survival. Above all, we give thanks to Almighty God for His abundant blessings upon our land, praising Him without ceasing for the grace that

has guided us through every trial and triumph. In humble gratitude for the sacred trust handed down to us across the centuries, we commend to His care the heroes, dreamers, workers, and warriors who built and defended our Nation, and we pledge ourselves anew to be worthy of their sacrifices. Today, as one American People, we celebrate and carry forward the spirit our Founders kindled in Philadelphia and enshrined in the Declaration of Independence—and with God's help, we will prevail in making our beloved Nation stronger, prouder, richer, and greater than ever before.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 4, 2026, as the 250th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Declaration of Independence. I urge all Americans to proudly observe this day with all due ceremony to honor the glorious heritage, history, and accomplishments of our beloved Republic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fiftieth.



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