

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 300

[FRL-7609-9]

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of partial deletion of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Priorities List Site from the National Priorities List.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 announces the deletion of the Surface Deletion Area of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Priorities List (RMA/NPL) Site from the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL constitutes Appendix B of 40 CFR part 300, which is the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), which EPA promulgated pursuant to section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended. EPA and the State of Colorado, through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), have determined that the Surface Deletion Area of the RMA/NPL Site poses no significant threat to public health or the environment and, therefore, no further remedial measures pursuant to CERCLA are appropriate.

This partial deletion pertains to the surface (soil, surface water, sediment) and structures media only and excludes the groundwater media of the Surface Deletion Area of the On-Post OU of the RMA/NPL Site. The Selected Perimeter Area of the On-Post OU RMA/NPL Site, composed of the surface, structures, and groundwater media within an additional 4,930 acres, also is being deleted at this time. The rest of the On-Post and Off-Post OUs will remain on the NPL. This partial deletion of the Surface Deletion Area will not change Appendix B of 40 CFR part 300, which was previously amended in January 2003 (68 FR 2699) to reflect that a partial deletion of 1.5 square miles from the RMA/NPL Site had occurred.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 15, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Laura Williams, Remedial Project Manager (8EPR-F), U.S. EPA, Region 8, 999 18th Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado, 80202-2466, (303) 312-6660. Information on the RMA/NPL Site as well as the Deletion Docket and the Responsiveness Summary for this

partial deletion are available at EPA's Region 8 Superfund Records Center in Denver, Colorado. Documents are available for viewing by appointment from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday excluding holidays by calling (303) 312-6473. The Administrative Record for the RMA/NPL Site, which includes the Deletion Docket and Responsiveness Summary for the partial deletion of the Surface Deletion and Selected Perimeter Areas, is maintained at the Joint Administrative Records Document Facility, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Building 129, Room 2024, Commerce City, Colorado 80022-1748, (303) 289-0362. Documents are available for viewing from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday or by appointment.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Priorities List (RMA/NPL) Site is located in southern Adams County, Colorado, approximately eight miles northeast of downtown Denver. The On-Post operable unit (OU) of the RMA/NPL Site addresses the source areas of contamination within the boundaries of RMA proper. The Off-Post OU addresses contamination north and northwest of the RMA proper boundaries. The Surface Deletion Area consists of 123 acres on the northern and southern perimeter of the On-Post OU in Commerce City, Colorado.

This partial deletion pertains to the surface (soil, surface water, sediment) and structures media only and excludes the groundwater media of the Surface Deletion Area of the On-Post OU of the RMA/NPL Site. The Selected Perimeter Area of the On-Post OU RMA/NPL Site, composed of the surface, structures, and groundwater media within an additional 4,930 acres, also is being deleted at this time. The rest of the On-Post and Off-Post OUs will remain on the NPL.

On July 28, 2003, EPA published a Notice of Intent for Partial Deletion (NOIDp) in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 44265) and local newspapers which proposed to delete the Surface Deletion Area from the RMA/NPL Site. Comments received during the public comment period primarily focused on the application of institutional controls and five-year reviews once the proposed property is deleted, as well as understanding how the boundaries of the Surface Deletion Area were chosen. EPA also received 17 letters of support for proceeding with the partial deletion and two letters which provided recommendations but did not state a preference regarding the deletion.

In our Responsiveness Summary, EPA explained how institutional controls are

currently in place for the entire On-Post OU as required by the 1989 Federal Facilities Agreement, 1992 RMA National Wildlife Refuge Act, and 1996 Record of Decision for the RMA/NPL Site. These documents require the transfer of the 100-foot wide areas along the perimeter of the On-Post OU to State/local governments for road widening "be subject to perpetual restrictions that are attached to any deed to such property." Use restrictions for the remainder of the deleted Surface Deletion Area will be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as outlined in the Interim RMA Institutional Control Plan, in coordination with the U.S. Army. The effectiveness of the institutional controls will be assessed as part of five-year reviews.

Five-year reviews for the RMA/NPL Site are conducted in accordance with EPA's Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance. As the lead agency for the RMA/NPL Site, the Army is responsible for conducting each site-wide, five-year review regardless of land transfer. While the Army cannot transfer this responsibility, they can contract with another agency or third party to conduct the actual five-year review activities. The next year-long, five-year review process, which includes public participation, is expected to begin in late 2004 so it can be completed by the December 2005 schedule.

EPA's responsiveness summary further explained how only areas which met the criteria of "Responsible parties or other persons have implemented all appropriate response actions required" (40 CFR 300.425(e)(1)(i)) were considered for deletion. Not all property that met the deletion criteria were included in EPA's proposal for deletion. However, the Surface Deletion Area, in combination with the Surface Deletion Area, will allow the U.S. to effect the 1992 RMA National Wildlife Refuge Act and provide a direct benefit to communities adjacent to RMA by making the 100-foot-strips available for road widening which will ease access to Denver International Airport. The remainder of the Selected Perimeter and Surface Deletion Areas will provide for the establishment of a refuge of significant size encompassing the southern zone and the existing Visitor Center, the areas of highest public use.

The 17 entities who support the partial deletion cited their confidence in the environmental studies and the thoroughness of the cleanup activities conducted by the Army and Shell to meet standards set by EPA, the State of Colorado, and the Tri-County Health Department. EPA agrees that completion

of the remedy requirements as well as recent site-wide studies adequately demonstrate that the Surface Deletion Area does not present a threat to the environment or human health and it is appropriate to delete the Surface Deletion Area from the RMA/NPL Site.

EPA identifies sites that appear to present a significant risk to public health, welfare, or the environment and maintains the NPL as the list of those sites. Any site deleted from the NPL remains eligible for Fund-financed actions in the unlikely event that conditions at the site warrant such action. Section 300.425(e)(3) of the NCP states that Fund-financed actions may be taken at sites deleted from the NPL. Deletion of a site from the NPL does not affect responsible party liability or impede Agency efforts to recover costs associated with response efforts.

Lists of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 300

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Chemicals, Hazardous substances, Hazardous waste, Intergovernmental relations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Superfund, Water pollution control, Water supply.

Dated: January 5, 2004.

Robert E. Roberts,

Regional Administrator, Region 8.

[FR Doc. 04-835 Filed 1-1-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

49 CFR Part 192

[Docket No. RSPA-00-7666; Amendment 192-95]

RIN 2137-AD54

Pipeline Safety: Pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas (Gas Transmission Pipelines)

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects the effective date of a final rule published

in the **Federal Register** on December 15, 2003 (68 FR 69778). That rule requires operators to develop integrity management programs for gas transmission pipelines located where a leak or rupture could do the most harm, *i.e.*, could impact high consequence areas (HCAs). The rule requires gas transmission pipeline operators to perform ongoing assessments of pipeline integrity, to improve data collection, integration and analysis, to repair and remediate the pipeline as necessary, and to implement preventive and mitigative actions. The published effective date was in error. This document corrects the effective date from January 14, 2004, to February 14, 2004, to meet the 60 day requirement for Congressional review of major rules. (5 U.S.C. 801(a)(4).)

EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date for the final rule published on December 15, 2003, at 68 FR 69778 is corrected to read February 14, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Israni by phone at (202) 366-4571, by fax at (202) 366-4566, or by e-mail at mike.israni@rspa.dot.gov, regarding the subject matter of the final rule.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 22, 2003.

Samuel G. Bonasso,

Deputy Administrator.

[FR Doc. 04-275 Filed 1-14-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 030227050-3082-02; I.D. 010904C]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Reopening of Commercial Fishery

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

ACTION: Commercial fishery reopening.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that spiny dogfish commercial fishery will reopen.

Vessels issued a Federal moratorium permit to harvest spiny dogfish may possess up to 300 lb (136 kg) of spiny dogfish per trip per calendar day on 0001 hours local time, January 12, 2004, through 2359 hours local time, April 30, 2004. The intent of this action is to allow for the full utilization of the commercial quota allocated to the spiny dogfish fishery.

DATES: Effective 0001 hours local time, January 12, 2004, through 2359 hours local time, April 30, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul H. Jones, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9273, fax 978-281-9135, e-mail paul.h.jones@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 648.231 of part 50 CFR requires NMFS to close the commercial fishery for spiny dogfish in the EEZ for each semi-annual quota period when the quota is determined to be harvested. The Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, based on dealer reports, state data, and other available information, determined that the quota for Quota Period 2 would be harvested (68 FR 41945, July 16, 2003), therefore, effective 0001 hours, July 18, 2003, the commercial fishery for spiny dogfish in the EEZ was closed. However, new projections indicate the quota of spiny dogfish may not be attained. Therefore, NMFS announces that the commercial fishery for spiny dogfish in the EEZ will reopen. Vessels issued a Federal moratorium permit to harvest spiny dogfish may possess up to 300 lb (136 kg) of spiny dogfish per trip per calendar day effective 0001 hours local time, January 12, 2004, through 2359 hours local time, April 30, 2004.

Classification

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

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

Dated: January 12, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 04-900 Filed 1-12-04; 2:38 pm]

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