

environmentalstandards
@comdt.uscg.mil or by leaving a message on the Coast Guard's Ballast Water Information Line telephone number (202-267-2716). When requesting mailed copies, please provide full name and mailing address, and specify that you are requesting STEP application guidance materials. Questions about the application process may be asked at the workshop, or directed to Mr. Ronald Jackson at the address listed under the section of this announcement titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

The Hotel Washington is holding a block of rooms for the meeting. In order to receive the group rate of \$180, reservations need to be made directly with the Hotel Washington by February 28, 2006. After this date, rooms will be available at the best available rate. Reservations can be made by calling the Hotel Washington at 1-800-424-9540 or at <http://www.hotelwashington.com> or <http://www.hotelwashington.com/>. Please mention or enter the group booking ID # 31241 to receive the block rate.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

If you plan to attend the workshop and require special assistance, such as sign language interpretation or other reasonable accommodations, please contact us as indicated in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Workshop

The Coast Guard encourages potential applicants to STEP, and interested and affected stakeholders, to attend the workshop and learn about the Program in general, and the specifics of the application process. The workshop is open to the public, but space may be limited. Any updates about the workshop will be posted on the Coast Guard's STEP Web site (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/step.htm>).

Regulatory History

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, as reauthorized and amended by the National Invasive Species Act of 1996, authorized the Coast Guard to develop regulations to prevent the introduction of nonindigenous species (NIS) via ballast water discharges. The Coast Guard most recently promulgated ballast water related regulations in the **Federal Register** on June 14, 2004, entitled, "Penalties for Non-submission of Ballast Water Management Reports" (68 FR 32864) and on July 28, 2004, entitled "Mandatory Ballast Water Management for U.S. Waters" (69 FR

44952). Together, these most recent regulations established penalties for noncompliance with BWM reporting requirements, made the formerly voluntary BWM program a mandatory program, and extended the mandatory BWM program to include all vessels equipped with ballast tanks bound for ports and places in the U.S., and/or entering U.S. waters. The Great Lakes Ballast Water Management Program that became effective on May 10, 1993 (58 FR 18330), has remained unchanged, with the exception that all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks that enter the Great Lakes must now submit their ballast water reporting forms as of August 13, 2004 (68 FR 32864).

Description of Issue

The BWM regulations established by the Coast Guard have created a need for BWT systems that can be used in lieu of mid-ocean ballast water exchange to reduce the risk of introducing nonindigenous species to U.S. waters via ballast water discharges. Vessel owners and the BWT technology industry have expressed the need for incentives to encourage the development of prototype BWT systems and shipboard testing methods. Vessel owners have expressed a reluctance to invest the resources to install and operate experimental equipment for fear that this equipment might not meet discharge standards mandated by future regulations. To address this concern, vessels accepted to the STEP may be granted an equivalency to future ballast water discharge regulations—for up to the life of the vessel or the BWT system—while they operate satisfactorily. Collaboration between government agencies, the shipping industry, the scientific community, as well as other stakeholders is essential for the development of effective and practical BWT technology to reduce the threat posed by NIS in discharged ballast water.

The Coast Guard will use this workshop to inform stakeholders of the STEP approval process, as well as recent changes in certain details of the program. Following announcement of STEP in 2004, the Coast Guard and its partners have developed a revised set of application guidelines. The new guidelines are intended to help clarify for potential applicants the specific information required and the format for its presentation in a STEP application.

Dated: February 14, 2006.

Howard Hime,

Acting Director of Standards, Prevention.

[FR Doc. E6-2826 Filed 2-28-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[USCG-2006-23962]

National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) will meet to discuss various issues relating to offshore safety and security. The meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: NOSAC will meet on Thursday, April 6, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The meeting may close early if all business is finished. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before March 23, 2006. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee should reach the Coast Guard on or before March 23, 2006.

ADDRESSES: NOSAC will meet in room 2415 of the Coast Guard Headquarters Bldg., 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Commander J.M. Cushing, Commandant (G-PSO-2), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Commander J.M. Cushing, Executive Director of NOSAC, or Mr. Jim Magill, Assistant to the Executive Director, telephone 202-267-1082, fax 202-267-4570.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of the meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agenda of Meeting

National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee. The agenda includes the following:

- (1) Report on issues concerning the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Organization for Standardization.
- (2) SOLAS compliance for foreign operation of U.S. flagged Offshore Support Vessels (OSVs) including Liftboats.
- (3) Revision of IMO guidelines for OSVs.
- (4) Revision of IMO MODU Code.
- (5) Towing vessel rulemaking.
- (6) MODU mooring in GOM during hurricane season.

(7) Automatic Identification System (AIS) rulemaking.

(8) Revision of 33 CFR, Subchapter N, Outer Continental Shelf activities.

(9) 33 CFR, Subchapter NN, Temporary Final Rule on Deepwater Ports, and status of license submissions for LNG deepwater ports.

Procedural

The meeting is open to the public. Please note that the meeting may close early if all business is finished. At the Chair's discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meeting. If you would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting, please notify the Executive Director no later than March 23, 2006. Written material for distribution at the meeting should reach the Coast Guard no later than March 23, 2006. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee in advance of the meeting, please submit 25 copies to the Executive Director no later than March 23, 2006.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: February 22, 2006.

Howard L. Hime,

Acting Director of Standards.

[FR Doc. E6-2886 Filed 2-28-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Transportation Security Administration

Extension of Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Security Programs for Indirect Air Carriers

AGENCY: Transportation Security Administration (TSA), DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that TSA has forwarded the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval of an extension of the currently approved collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. TSA published a **Federal Register** notice, with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments, of the following collection of

information on December 16, 2005, 70 FR 74836.

DATES: Send your comments by March 31, 2006. A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be faxed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: DHS-TSA Desk Officer, at (202) 395-5806.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katrina Wawer, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Chief Counsel, TSA-02, Transportation Security Administration, 601 South 12th Street, Arlington, VA 22202-4220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Therefore, in preparation for OMB review and approval of the following information collection, TSA is soliciting comments to—

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed information requirement is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden;

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

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including using appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Information Collection Requirement

Title: Security Programs for Indirect Air Carriers.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

OMB Control Number: 1652-0004.

Form(s): NA.

Affected Public: Indirect air carriers regulated under 49 CFR part 1548.

Abstract: Part 1548 of 14 CFR establishes aviation security requirements for each person (including air freight forwarder and any cooperative shippers' association) engaged, or who intends to be engaged, indirectly in the air transportation of package cargo that is intended for carriage aboard a passenger-carrying air carrier aircraft inside the United States. This collection of information allows

TSA to determine compliance with this rule through inspections of each security program and related records to ensure that the contents are current, complete, and correct. This collection directly supports TSA's mission to protect the nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce.

Number of Responses: 3608.

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: An estimated 1306 hours annually.

Estimated Annual Cost Burden: \$56,158.

Lisa S. Dean,

Privacy Officer.

[FR Doc. E6-2922 Filed 2-28-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5041-N-05]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Multifamily Project Applications and Construction Prior to Initial Endorsement

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: *Comments Due Date:* May 1, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number (2502-0029) and should be sent to: Lillian Deitzer, Reports Management Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW., L'Enfant Plaza Building, Room 8003, Washington, DC 20410 or Lillian_Deitzer@hud.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe E. Malloy, Acting Director, Office of Multifamily Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-1142 (this is not a toll free number) for copies of the proposed forms and other available information.