ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–9535–01–OA]

Notification of Public Meeting

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notification of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), EPA hereby provides notice of a meeting of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) and the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS) on the date and times described below. This meeting will be open to the public. For information on public attendance and participation, please see the registration information under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section.

DATES: The SCAS will meet virtually February 17th, 2022, starting at 11:30 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The LGAC will meet virtually February 17th, 2022, starting at 2:00 p.m. through 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paige Lieberman, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), at LGAC@epa.gov or 202–564–9957. Information on Accessibility: For information on access or services for individuals requiring accessibility accommodations, please contact Paige Lieberman by email at LGAC@epa.gov. To request accommodation, please do so five (5) business days prior to the meeting, to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

Following the passage of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be making significant investments in the health, equity, and resilience of American communities. With unprecedented funding to support our national infrastructure, EPA will improve people’s health and safety, help create good-paying jobs, and increase climate resilience throughout the country.

As EPA works to implement the law, EPA has asked the LGAC for their input on the following:
- How can we ensure that investments in water infrastructure promote sustainable and healthy communities?
- Are there specific recommendations for how EPA can prioritize equity, environmental justice, and the lived experience of those most impacted by water pollution?
- Are there specific recommendations for how EPA can include workforce development as part of the implementation of this bill?
- Do you have any recommendations for how EPA can include climate adaptation, resilience in the projects funded?
- Is there specific technical assistance that EPA should offer local governments to ensure they plan for, and build infrastructure that supports multiple community goals, including improving environmental and economic outcomes, supporting equity and environmental justice, and increasing communities’ abilities to create climate resilience?
- Is there specific input you have for EPA as it develops the Clean School Bus program the in BIL?

During this meeting the LGAC will present, finalize and formally adopt final recommendations for charge questions noted above. Prior to the LGAC meeting, the SCAS will convene to discuss and provide input from their perspective on the LGAC’s draft recommendations for implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

All interested persons are invited to attend and participate. The SCAS will hear comments from the public from 12:45–1:00 p.m. (EST). The LGAC will hear comments from the public from 3:15–3:30 p.m. (EST). Individuals or organizations wishing to address the SCAS or LGAC should register by contacting the DFO at the email listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT to schedule a time on the agenda by February 14, 2022. Time will be allotted on a first-come first-served basis, and the total period for comments may be extended if the number of requests for appearances requires it.

Registration: The meeting will be held virtually through an online audio and video platform. Members of the public who wish to participate should register by contacting the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at LGAC@epa.gov by February 11, 2022. The agenda and other supportive meeting materials will be available online at https://www.epa.gov/ocir/local-government-advisory-committee-lgac and can be obtained by written request to the DFO. In the event of cancellation for unforeseen circumstances, please contact the DFO or check the website above for reschedule information.

Julian Bowles, Director, State and Local Relations, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations.

[FRL Doc. 2022–02300 Filed 2–2–22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. 20–10; Petition No. P1–20]

Investigation Into Conditions Created by Canadian Ballast Water Regulations in the U.S./Canada Great Lakes Trade

AGENCY: Federal Maritime Commission.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: Because of developments within Canada and the United States, the Federal Maritime Commission (Commission) is seeking additional public comments on a petition filed by the Lake Carriers’ Association (Petitioner) alleging that conditions created by the Government of Canada (Canada) are unfavorable to shipping in the United States/Canada trade.

DATES: Submit comments on or before March 7, 2022.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. 20–10, by the following method:
- Email: secretary@fmc.gov. For comments, include in the subject line: “Docket No. 20–10, Comments on Conditions Created by Canadian Ballast Water Regulations in the U.S./Canada Great Lakes Trade.” Comments should be attached to the email as a Microsoft Word or text searchable PDF document. Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or public comments received, go to the Commission’s Electronic Reading Room.

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Dated: January 27, 2022.
an investigation into whether the proposed Transport Canada regulations create unfavorable conditions to shipping in the foreign trade of the United States. Notice of Investigation and Request for Comments: Canada Ballast Water 85 FR 37453 (June 22, 2020). The Commission designated the Deputy Managing Director to lead an investigation into the Petitioner’s allegations and to prepare a report on the investigation’s findings and recommendations for Commission consideration. Id at 37454.

As an initial step in the investigation, the Commission requested that interested persons submit views, arguments and/or data on the Petition. Between June 22, 2020, and July 22, 2020, the Commission received 21 comments. Id. The majority of comments received by the Commission supported the Petition and a small minority opposed. One main objection to the petition, raised by the Embassy of Canada in Washington, DC, was that the regulatory process was ongoing, and, because the proposed regulations by Transport Canada were not final, any Commission action would be premature.

II. Additional Developments

Since the issuance of the June 2020 Notice and the subsequent receipt of comments, there have been developments which impact the Commission’s consideration of the Petition including proposed rules within the United States and the finalization of the Canadian rule. On October 26, 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance, in the Federal Register. See Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance, 85 FR 67818 (October 26, 2020). Like the proposed Canadian rule, the EPA’s proposed rule intends to reduce the environmental impact of vessel discharges, such as ballast water. Though similar in intent, the EPA’s approach to Great Lakes ballast water in their proposed rule did not align with the proposed Canadian approach and will not have an effect on the U.S. Great Lakes fleet. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking required that comments be received on or before November 25, 2020. The EPA’s next action is not expected until sometime in 2022.

On June 23, 2021, Transport Canada issued its final rule. The general approach to the regulation of Great Lakes ballast water did not change. However, while the effective date of the final rule remains 2024, the rule delayed implementation until 2030 for vessels built prior to January 1, 2009.

III. Investigation and Additional Request for Comments

The Commission is continuing to investigate whether the proposed Transport Canada regulations create unfavorable conditions to shipping in the foreign trade of the United States. The Deputy Managing Director position no longer exists, and the Commission has therefore designated the General Counsel to lead the ongoing investigation into the Petitioner’s allegations and to prepare a report on the investigation’s findings and recommendations for Commission consideration. Considering the developments noted earlier, the Commission desires additional information. Thus, in furtherance of this investigation interested persons are requested to submit views, arguments and/or data on the Petition no later than 30 days after this publication. Submitted comments may address any aspect of the petition, but the Commission is specifically interested in comments on the following topics:

A. The application of the final Canadian regulation. The Commission believes that a majority of the U.S. flagged commercial vessels operating on the Great Lakes were built prior to 2009. The Commission seeks more information about the specific number of U.S. vessels to which the Canadian rule will apply, and the timing for when the Canadian rule will apply to those vessels.

Pre-2009: How many U.S. flag vessels operating on the Great Lakes in the U.S./Canada trade were built prior to January 1, 2009?

Post-2009: How many U.S. flag vessels operating on the Great Lakes in the U.S./Canada trade were built in 2009 or later?

Historical Trade: For both categories of vessels, what is the amount or percent of their historical and anticipated Canadian trade relative to their U.S. trade? Please specify the measure used to quantify the answer, for example is the measure based on the value of goods/revenue, the number of port calls, or any other metric.
percent is carried by Canadian flagged vessels? Please specify the metrics used to quantify the answer.

B. The impact of the final Canadian regulation. The Commission believes that the phased implementation of the Canadian rule could delay, and possibly eliminate, the impacts of the rule on a portion of U.S. flagged vessels. The Commission seeks specific information about the types of impacts and the timing of those impacts relative to the 2024 and 2030 implementation dates. The Commission also seeks information about the overall impact, if any, of final Canadian regulation on the Commission’s consideration of the Petition:

Contraction Impacts: Will the final Canadian regulation affect the ability of U.S. flag vessels to negotiate contracts for the U.S./Canada trade? What are the specific or estimated economic impacts? When will any economic impacts first be realized?

Repair/Design Impacts: At what date will affected U.S. flag vessels be impacted by vessel repair/design considerations in order to achieve compliance with the Canadian regulations? What are the estimated costs of compliance under the final Canadian regulation?

Business Model: Will the final Canadian rule drive any changes in business models for U.S. flagged vessels?

For any impacts identified above, please be specific as to when an economic impact will present and upon what data the impact is based. Please identify any distinctions in impacts based on type of cargo, vessel, expiration date of contract, implementation date of proposed contract or type of carriage agreement.

C. Other considerations. The Commission’s role in this investigation is solely to determine if there exist “conditions unfavorable to shipping in foreign trade” under 46 U.S.C. 41201. In making this determination there are other matters that may be outside the control or the authority of the Commission but nevertheless should be considered during the Commission’s investigation and recommendations.

EPA Rule: How should the Commission consider the status of the EPA’s proposed rule?

International Convention: Is the 2004 Ballast Water Management Convention (International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004) relevant to this Petition? Is the Canadian rule required or optional under the Convention? Have other parties to the Convention enacted a similar provision?

Developments: What industry or scientific developments have an impact on this Petition? Have there been any relevant developments since the Commission’s initial request for comments in June 2020?

Changes: Have any of the analyses or projections provided to the Commission by the Petitioner changed? If so, provide the Commission with any data that has changed since the filing of the Petition and that has not been captured through answers to the questions above.

D. Commission’s future actions. The Commission’s investigation is ongoing and will consider all relevant information and potential actions, including:

Other Information: Do other sources of relevant information or data exist that should be considered? Where is that information/data located?

Fee: The original petition requested that the Commission issue a regulation that would assess a fee of 300,000.00 U.S. dollars each time a Canadian vessel enters any U.S. port. Is this request still valid and are there other corrective actions that should be considered, including requests to other agencies under 46 U.S.C. 42102(a)?

Comments in response to the questions above, or other feedback, should include objectively quantifiable data to back up any numerical or statistical information provided rather than generalized information/arguments for or against the petition.

By the Commission. Issued: January 28, 2022.

William Cody, Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2022–02186 Filed 2–2–22; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6730–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[Document Identifiers: CMS–10036]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing an opportunity for the public to comment on CMS’ intention to collect information from the public. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (the PRA), federal agencies are required to publish notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information (including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information) and to allow 60 days for public comment on the proposed action. Interested persons are invited to send comments regarding our burden estimates or any other aspect of this collection of information, including the necessity and utility of the proposed information collection for the proper performance of the agency’s functions, the accuracy of the estimated burden, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology to minimize the information collection burden.

DATES: Comments must be received by April 4, 2022.

ADDRESSES: When commenting, please reference the document identifier or OMB control number. To be assured consideration, comments and recommendations must be submitted in any one of the following ways:

1. Electronically. You may send your comments electronically to http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for “Comment or Submission” or “More Search Options” to find the information collection document(s) that are accepting comments.

2. By regular mail. You may mail written comments to the following address: CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Division of Regulations Development, Attention: Document Identifier/OMB Control Number: ______, Room C4–26–05, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244–1850.

To obtain copies of a supporting statement and any related forms for the proposed collection(s) summarized in this notice, you may make your request using one of following:


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William N. Parham at (410) 786–4669.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Contents

This notice sets out a summary of the use and burden associated with the following information collections. More detailed information can be found in each collection’s supporting statement and associated materials (see ADDRESSES).