

all marine events and suggested various submission times of 60 days or less. A few comments supported the proposed submission time of 90 days for larger events. Another comment suggested requiring a submission time of 105 days to allow for a full environmental impact analysis.

Many comments emphasized planning problems faced by sponsors due to short seasons, volunteer organization officials, long periods of inactivity prior to the boating season start-up events, and difficulty in getting firm, detailed information sooner than 30 days before an event.

The Coast Guard has determined that the best course of action at this point is to withdraw this single issue rulemaking and examine the issue of permit application submission times as part of a broader project to conduct a regulatory review of the entire regatta and marine parade permit process, [CGD 95-054] published elsewhere in this issue. Therefore, the Coast Guard is withdrawing the rulemaking [CGD 87-087] and merging its docket with [CGD 95-054].

Dated: December 18, 1995.

Rudy K. Peschel,

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Chief, Office of Navigation Safety and Waterway Services.*  
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### 33 CFR Part 100

[CGD 95-054]

RIN 2115-AF17

#### Regattas and Marine Parades; Permit Application Procedures

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Advance notice of proposed rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In keeping with the National Performance Review, the Coast Guard is examining its procedures for permitting regattas and marine parades in order to improve its service to event sponsors and affected navigation in the event area. In order to identify and consider the permitting procedures and application requirements which should be modified or removed, the Coast Guard is requesting comments from interested and affected individuals and entities early in the process. This regulatory review seeks to identify better ways to reduce permit application processing time and eliminate unnecessary paperwork without adversely affecting vessel safety in the event area.

**DATES:** Comments are requested by February 9, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be mailed to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G-LRA/3406) (CGD 95-054), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, or may be delivered to room 3406 at the same address between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (202) 267-1477. The Executive Secretary maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room 3406, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters.

The minutes of National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) meetings at which regatta and marine parade permit application issues were discussed are available for examination in the docket.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Carlton Perry, Project Manager, Auxiliary, Boating, and Consumer Affairs Division, (202) 267-0979. A copy of this notice may be obtained by calling the Coast Guard's toll-free Coast Guard Customer Infoline, 1-800-368-5647. In Washington, DC, call 267-0780.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Request for Comments**

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this request for comments by submitting written data, views or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses and identify this notice (CGD 95-054). Please submit two copies of all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclose stamped, self-addressed postcards or envelopes.

**Background and Purpose**

Under 33 U.S.C. 1233, the Coast Guard has discretionary authority to issue regulations to promote the safety of life on navigable waters during regattas or marine parades. Section 100.15 of Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations prescribes the requirements for regatta and marine parade (marine event) permit applications, including: (1) which events require a Coast Guard marine event permit; (2) limiting the validity of a marine event permit to not exceed one year; (3) the timeframe for submitting permit applications; and (4) information the sponsor must provide in an application package.

The Coast Guard reviews all regatta permit applications to determine whether or not a permit is required to hold the event. The Coast Guard checks the permit application package for completeness and contacts the applicant for missing or additional information. Permit applications are reviewed for extra or unusual hazards to the safety of life, such as an inherently hazardous competition; customary presence of commercial or pleasure craft in the area; any obstruction of a navigable channel; and accumulation of spectator craft. The Coast Guard addresses this extra or unusual hazard in a cooperative effort between the event sponsor and the issuing authority, e.g., a Coast Guard Group Commander, throughout the permit application review process. The Coast Guard issuing authority discusses the location and conduct of the event, consults with other affected commands, e.g., Captain of the Port or Vessel Traffic Service Center, assigns and directs safety patrol craft, in addition to sponsor provided safety patrol craft, as deemed necessary, establishes a safety patrol communication plan for use before, during and immediately after the event, and notifies local navigation of the event through the Local Notice to Mariners and often through local media sources, as well.

The Coast Guard may also need to contact Federal, State or local agency offices to determine if there are conflicting activities scheduled in the area. Not all events for which a permit application is submitted require Coast Guard approval. Those applications are returned to the sponsors with notification that the event does not require a permit. If a permit for a marine event is required, the Coast Guard must decide whether the permit should be issued or denied.

When necessary, the Coast Guard promulgates special local regulations in the Federal Register to ensure safety of life on navigable waters before, during, and after an approved marine event. These regulations may include restricted or other controlled movement of navigation through the event area. Before promulgating special local regulations, the Coast Guard must give the public notice and an opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations.

Applications for marine events which require a permit must also be reviewed and evaluated in accordance with Coast Guard procedures for complying with laws to protect the environment. Environmental review may require coordination with Federal, State, or local government environmental agencies to use their special expertise in determining whether the marine event