

way and to what degree this proposal will economically affect it.

Collection of Information

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reviews each proposed rule that contains a collection-of-information requirement to determine whether the practical value of the information is worth the burden imposed by its collection. Collection-of-information requirements include reporting, recordkeeping, notification, and other similar requirements. This proposal contains no collection of information requirements.

Federalism

The Coast Guard has analyzed this proposal under the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612 and has determined that this proposal does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Environment

The Coast Guard has considered the environmental impact of this supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking under COMDTINST M16475.1B. Although this SNPRM proposes no Federal regulations and therefore does not amount to the type of major Federal action typically subject to analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Coast Guard solicits comments on its analysis of structural measures. An Environmental Assessment (EA) from the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) is available in the docket for copying and inspection as indicated in the "ADDRESSES" section of this preamble.

By the year 2015, all tank vessels (with certain exceptions) over 5,000 dwt operating in U.S. waters will be equipped with double hulls. In the interim, the Coast Guard has been given wide latitude under OPA 90 section 4115(b) to set structural and operational standards for single hull vessels for the purpose of reducing the amount of oil spilled into the marine environment.

Sound structural design and efficient operational procedures, when combined with other requirements of OPA 90, should contribute to increased environmental protection and human safety. The impact of section 4115(b), however is not expected to result in significant impact on the quality of human environment, as defined in the NEPA.

Although no regulatory text is introduced in this SNPRM, the public is encouraged to comment on the technological and economic feasibility of the structural measures discussed in this SNPRM. Comments received on this SNPRM will enable the Coast Guard to assess the economic and technological feasibility of structural measures to reduce the risk of oil outflow from existing tank vessels and effectively implement section 4115(b) of OPA 90.

Dated: December 21, 1995.

A.E. Henn,

Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Commandant.

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