POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

39 CFR Part 3025

[Docket No. RM2020–3; Order No. 5439]

Procedures Related to Commission Views

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission revises its rules related to the Commission’s process for developing views submitted to the Secretary of State on certain international mail matters.

DATES: Effective date: April 21, 2020.

ADDRESSES: For additional information, Order No. 5439 can be accessed electronically through the Commission’s website at https://www.prc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trisell, General Counsel, at 202–789–6820.

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I. Relevant Statutory Requirements

Section 407(c)(1) of title 39 of the United States Code requires that the Secretary of State, before concluding a treaty, convention, or amendment establishing a market dominant rate or classification, request the Commission’s views on the consistency of such rate or classification with the modern rate-setting criteria of 39 U.S.C. 3622. Commission views entail the review and analysis of numerous proposals from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) or its member countries, which are typically posted on the UPU website pursuant to a series of deadlines that begin about 6 months before a Congress convenes.

II. Background

In Docket No. RM2015–14, the Commission adopted rules formalizing its procedures related to Commission views submitted pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 407(c)(1). The adopted rules reflected the Commission’s commitment to both transparency and improved public accessibility by establishing dockets that informed the public about the availability of relevant proposals, Commission views, and other related documents, and by allowing all documents to be incorporated into one comprehensive record.

III. Basis and Purpose of Final Rules

After years of experience in participating in both traditional UPU Congresses as well as two extraordinary Congresses, the Commission adopts clarifying changes to the rules in order to better reflect the Commission’s procedures related to the posting of relevant proposals and Commission views.

IV. Changes to Final Rules

Due to Commission action in another proceeding, the Commission notes several non-substantive changes to the rules as proposed in Order No. 5353. These changes do not affect the text of the rules themselves and largely relate to the numbering of the rules. In Order No. 5353, the Commission proposed rule revisions to 39 CFR part 3017 on December 17, 2019. See section I, supra; see also Order No. 5353. On January 16, 2020, the Commission issued a final rulemaking in a separate proceeding that, among other things, renumbered several parts in title 39. In Order No. 5407, 39 CFR part 3017 was redesignated as 39 CFR part 3025. Id. at 24. In addition, the Commission redesignated §§ 3017.1 through 3017.5 as §§ 3025.101 through 3025.105 of the chapter and revised the part’s heading to “Procedures Related to Commission Views Submitted to the Secretary of State.”

The revisions set forth in Order No. 5407 go into effect on April 20, 2020. Order No. 5407 at 21–22. In order to avoid any confusion that may be associated with these overlapping changes, the final rules adopted in this Order will go into effect on April 21, 2020, after the renumbering of parts in title 39 is complete. As such, the rule revisions herein reflect the numerical and heading changes adopted as part of Order No. 5407.

List of Subjects for 39 CFR Part 3025

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service, Treaties.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Commission amends chapter III of title 39 of the Code of Federal Regulations by revising part 3025 to read as follows:

PART 3025—PROCEDURES RELATED TO COMMISSION VIEWS SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sec.
3025.101 Definitions in this part.
3025.102 Purpose.
3025.103 Establishment and scope of docket.
3025.104 Comment deadline(s).
3025.105 Issuance of Commission views.


§ 3025.101 Definitions in this part.

(a) Commission views refers to the opinion the Commission provides to the Secretary of State pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 407(c)(1) on the consistency of a relevant proposal with modern rate regulation.

(b) Modern rate regulation refers to the standards and criteria the Commission has established pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3622.

(c) Relevant proposal means a proposed change to a treaty, convention, or amendment that establishes a market dominant rate or classification.

§ 3025.102 Purpose.

The rules in this part are intended to facilitate public participation in, and promote the transparency of, the development of Commission views.

§ 3025.103 Establishment and scope of docket.

(a) On or about 150 days before a Universal Postal Union Congress convenes or such advance time as the Commission determines for any other 39 U.S.C. 407(c)(1) matter, the Commission shall establish a docket in order to solicit public comments as part of the development of Commission views.

(b) The Commission shall post relevant proposals in the applicable docket established pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section and may also include other materials related to the development of Commission views, such as other documents or related actions.

(c) Public comments should focus on the specific relevant proposal as posted by the Commission and the general principles that should guide the development of Commission views as...
well as any other materials posted in the applicable docket pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section. 
(d) The Commission shall arrange for publication in the Federal Register of the notice establishing each docket authorized under this part.

§ 3025.104  Comment deadline(s).
(a) The Commission shall establish a deadline for comments upon establishment of the docket that is consistent with timely submission of Commission views to the Secretary of State. The Commission may establish other deadlines for comments as appropriate.
(b) The Commission may suspend or forego solicitation of comments if it determines that such solicitation is not consistent with timely submission of Commission views to the Secretary of State.

§ 3025.105  Issuance of Commission views.
(a) The Commission will review timely filed comments responding to a Commission solicitation pursuant to § 3025.103(a) prior to submitting its views to the Secretary of State.
(b) After Commission views are developed, the Commission shall post Commission views in the applicable docket established pursuant to § 3025.103(a) and submit Commission views to the Secretary of State pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 407(c)(1).

By the Commission.
Erica A. Barker,
Secretary.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
40 CFR Part 52

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Negative Declaration for the Oil and Gas Control Techniques Guideline

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving a state implementation plan (SIP) revision submitted by the District of Columbia. This revision pertains to a negative declaration for the October 2016 Oil and Natural Gas Control Techniques Guideline (CTG). This action is being taken under the Clean Air Act (CAA).

DATES: This final rule is effective on April 6, 2020.

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID Number EPA–R03–OAR–2019–0552. All documents in the docket are listed on the https://www.regulations.gov website. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., confidential business information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available through https://www.regulations.gov, or please contact the person identified in the “For Further Information Contact” section for additional availability information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph Schulingkamp, Planning & Implementation Branch (3AD30), Air & Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. The telephone number is (215) 814–2021. Mr. Schulingkamp can also be reached via electronic mail at schulingkamp.joseph@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On November 21, 2019 (84 FR 64244), EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for the District of Columbia. In the NPRM, EPA proposed approval of the District’s SIP revision concerning the negative declaration for the 2016 Oil and Gas CTG. The formal SIP revision was submitted by the District on July 17, 2019. For additional information on the CTG please see the NPRM.

II. Summary of SIP Revision and EPA Analysis

In its submittal, the District of Columbia’s Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) conducted a search of its sources to determine if the District has any sources that fall within the applicability of the 2016 Oil and Gas CTG. DOEE reviewed the following sources of information: DOEE’s Air Quality Division’s permitting database for potential sources subject to the 2016 Oil and Gas CTG, the Energy Information Administration’s data regarding natural gas pipelines and areas of oil and gas development, the Department of Homeland Security’s database of critical infrastructure which includes natural gas compressor stations, the District’s Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs database which would include a basic business license for broad categories of businesses, and the District’s point and area source inventory. Within each database or system reviewed, the District found no sources subject to the 2016 Oil and Gas CTG. After completing this search, the District has declared that no sources subject to the 2016 Oil and Gas CTG exist within the District.

III. Response to Comments

EPA received five sets of anonymous comments in response to the NPRM, two of which were duplicative. Comment 1: One commenter stated that approval of the District’s negative declaration, “might set a dangerous precedent for the further regulation and control of the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs),” and could cause, “a much larger issue for the future control of VOCs.”

Response 1: EPA understands the commenter’s concern with regards to setting a precedent, however, EPA has historically allowed states to submit a negative declaration for a particular CTG category if the state finds that no sources exist in the state which would be subject to that CTG. EPA has addressed the idea of negative declarations numerous times and for various national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) including in the General Preamble to the 1990 Amendments,1 the 2006 RACT Q&A Memo,2 and the 2008 Ozone Implementation Rule.3 In each of these documents, EPA asserted that if no sources exist in the nonattainment area for a particular CTG category, the state would be allowed to submit a negative declaration SIP revision.

In addition, EPA has approved negative declarations in the past for this CTG category in other states as well as other CTG categories for the District. For example, EPA has approved negative declarations for the District for the following categories with respect to the 1997 ozone NAAQS: Automotive and Light-duty Truck Manufacturing; Storage of Petroleum Liquids in Fixed-roof Tanks; Bulk Gasoline Plants; Petroleum Refinery Sources; Graphic

1 “State Implementation Plans; General Preamble for the Implementation of Title I of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. ” (57 FR 13498 at 13512 (April 16, 1992)).
3 “Implementation of the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: State Implementation Plan Requirements,” (80 FR 12263 at 12278 (March 6, 2015)).