

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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AUG 27 2012

Mr. William Creal, Chief
Water Resources Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973

Dear Mr. Creal:

We received your letter dated May 21, 2012, regarding the Coast Guard's Final Rule titled "Standards for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters."

The *Federal Register* (77 FR 17254) published the Final Rule on March 23, 2012. The first page included this statement:

"DATES: This final rule is effective June 21, 2012 except for 33 CFR 151.1513 and 151.2036 which contains information collection requirements that OMB has not approved. ...Comments... **on collection of information** (*emphasis added*) must reach OMB on or before May 22, 2012. ..."

Your comments on other aspects of the Final Rule were outside the scope of this request. However, you may find responses to similar comments in the Preamble of the Final Rule (*see V. Discussion of Comments and Changes*).

The *Federal Register* (77 FR 35268) published another notice on June 13, 2012, stating that OMB approved the Coast Guard's request, and that 33 CFR 151.1513 and 151.2036 would become effective beginning June 21, 2012.

If you have further questions, you may contact Mr. John Morris of my staff at 202-372-1433, email John.C.Morris@uscg.mil, or visit <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg522/cg5224/bwm.asp>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. A. Newsham".

S. A. NEWSHAM
Acting Chief, Environmental Standards Division

cc: Ms. Sarah LeSage, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality