



November 21, 2013
For Immediate Release

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**BREAKING!! Comments to Coast Guard on proposal to
barge frack wastewater on U.S. Rivers**

Extension of comment period - sort of - and additional way to submit comments

***Docket # USCG 2013 0915 – “policy letter” for the “Carriage of Conditionally Permitted Shale Gas
Extraction Waste Water in Bulk”***

Washington D.C. - The Coast Guard says they will “count on the record” comments submitted regarding the proposed “policy letter” through December 6, 2013. We could call this a “win” for the public who has complained about the inadequacy of the public participation process and the comment period specifically - the short comment period, the web portal being shut down for several days and legal holidays eating into the short comment period. It certainly does help to have another week to submit comments and we are sure the public will use this period of time.

However, this extension is NOT being noticed in the Federal Register as the official comment period was and the Coast Guard is not announcing this “officially”. This was a statement by Dr. Cynthia Znati, the staff person at Coast Guard headquarters. To verify this, Delaware Riverkeeper Network has submitted a statement on the record at the web portal and the email address stating that we understand the record will be kept open until December 6. We also reiterated that this does not satisfy the public’s need for a meaningful public participation process and stated again that we request a minimum of 120 days for the public to comment. We received an acknowledgment from Dr. Znati that the record will remain open through December 6.

Another important change to the comment process - The U.S. Coast Guard has stated that they will now accept emails in addition to comments submitted to the www.regulations.gov web portal for comments. Advantages to this are that the email seems to always function (we did test it with a test email and got a successful return receipt) and longer submissions can be submitted through the email; the web portal has a limit on number of words in the template box. However, we understand that to submit large attachments the web portal should be used because the email box may fill up if used for large attachments (only KB plain text range should be submitted to the email as opposed to MB range). The email address is:

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HazmatStandards@uscg.mil and the staff person at that email address is: Dr. Cynthia A. Znati. Of course, the Coast Guard mailing address can be used for very large submissions or for any comment if one prefers: Docket Management Facility (M-30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. Comments can also be submitted by fax: 202-493-2251.

“Delaware Riverkeeper Network considers this as a “sort of” extension of public comment. We encourage the public to use every day the record is open to submit comment to the Coast Guard on this proposal which will have substantial adverse impacts on the nation’s rivers, water supply and natural environment. We, however, advise that all substantive comments be submitted by the Federal Register noticed deadline of November 29 to insure the validity cannot be challenged by any party,” said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network. “In addition to the government portals you can comment and get more information at <http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/act-now/urgent-details.aspx?Id=154>”, said Carluccio.

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