

Docket No.	Requester	Regulation	Nature of special permit
PHMSA-2010-0124	Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP.	49 CFR 192.611	To authorize GSPC to engage in an alternative approach to conduct risk control activities based on Integrity Management Program principles rather than lowering the Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) or replacing the subject pipe segment. This application is for three segments of GSPC Line TPL-880 in Mobile County, Alabama. These segments have changed from Class 1 and 2 locations to Class 3. The pipeline is 30-inches in diameter and has a MAOP of 1,073 psig. The segments that have changed Class Locations are 2,763 feet in length. The three segments are located at Station Number 318+78 ft. to Station Number 322+14 ft., Station Number 435+63 ft. to Station Number 454+65 ft., and Station Number 455+85 ft. to Station Number 461+08 ft.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 60118 (c)(1) and 49 CFR 1.53.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 20, 2010.

Linda Daugherty,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy and Programs.

[FR Doc. 2010-27238 Filed 10-27-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Determination of Foreign Exchange Swaps and Forwards

AGENCY: Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”), as amended by Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”),¹ permits the Secretary of the Treasury to issue a written determination exempting foreign exchange swaps, foreign exchange forwards, or both, from the definition of a “swap” under the CEA. The Secretary has made no determination whether an exemption is warranted. Although not required under the Dodd-Frank Act, the Department of the Treasury invites comment on whether such an exemption for foreign exchange swaps, foreign exchange forwards, or both, is warranted and on the application of the factors that the Secretary must consider in making a determination regarding these instruments.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before November 29, 2010, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Submission of Comments: Please submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal—“Regulations.gov.” Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> to submit or view public comments. The “How to Use this

Site” and “User Tips” link on the Regulations.gov home page provides information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for submitting or viewing public comments, viewing other supporting and related materials, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period. Please include your name, affiliation, address, e-mail address and telephone number(s) in your comment. All statements received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Financial Institutions Policy, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220, (202) 622-2730, ofip@do.treas.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 721 of the Dodd-Frank Act² amends section 1a of the CEA which, in relevant part, defines the term “swap” under the CEA. Section 1a(47)(E) of the CEA authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to make a written determination that “foreign exchange swaps”³ or “foreign exchange forwards,”⁴ or both, should not be regulated as swaps under the CEA,⁵ as amended by the Dodd-Frank Act, and are not structured to evade the Dodd-Frank Act in violation of any rule promulgated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”).⁶

In making the determination whether to exempt foreign exchange swaps and/

or foreign exchange forwards,⁷ the Secretary of the Treasury must consider the following factors:

(1) Whether the required trading and clearing of foreign exchange swaps and foreign exchange forwards would create systemic risk, lower transparency, or threaten the financial stability of the United States;

(2) Whether foreign exchange swaps and foreign exchange forwards are already subject to a regulatory scheme that is materially comparable to that established by the CEA for other classes of swaps;

(3) The extent to which bank regulators of participants in the foreign exchange market provide adequate supervision, including capital and margin requirements;

(4) The extent of adequate payment and settlement systems; and

(5) The use of a potential exemption of foreign exchange swaps and foreign exchange forwards to evade otherwise applicable regulatory requirements.⁸

The Treasury Department is soliciting comments on the above factors, and any relevant information that may bear on the regulation of foreign exchange swaps and foreign exchange forwards as “swaps” under the CEA, to assist in the Secretary’s consideration of whether to issue a determination under section 1a(47) of the CEA.

In addition, the Treasury Department is particularly interested in comments on the questions set forth below:

(1) Are foreign exchange swaps and/or foreign exchange forwards qualitatively different from other classes of swaps in a way that makes them ill-suited for regulation as “swaps” under the CEA?⁹ Are there similarities

² Public Law 111-203, 124 Stat. 1376 (2010).

³ 7 U.S.C. 1a(25) (“a transaction that solely involves—(A) an exchange of 2 different currencies on a specific date at a fixed rate that is agreed upon on the inception of the contract covering the exchange; and (B) a reverse exchange of the 2 currencies described in subparagraph (A) at a later date and at a fixed rate that is agreed upon on the inception of the contract covering the exchange.”).

⁴ 7 U.S.C. 1a(24) (“a transaction that solely involves the exchange of 2 different currencies on a specific future date at a fixed rate agreed upon on the inception of the contract covering the exchange.”).

⁵ 7 U.S.C. 1(a)(47)(E)(i)(I).

⁶ 7 U.S.C. 1(a)(47)(E)(i)(II).

⁷ Notwithstanding any such determination by the Secretary of the Treasury, all foreign exchange swaps and forwards must be reported to a swap data repository, and swap dealers and major swap participants that are parties to foreign exchange swaps and forwards transactions must conform to business conduct standards pursuant to the requirements of the Dodd-Frank Act and implementing regulations thereunder.

⁸ 7 U.S.C. 1b(a).

⁹ 7 U.S.C. 1b(b)(1).

¹ Public Law 111-203, 124 Stat. 1376 (2010).

between foreign exchange swaps and/or foreign exchange forwards and other products not defined as swaps under the CEA?

(2) Are there objective differences between swaps and foreign exchange swaps and/or foreign exchange forwards that warrant an exemption for either or both of these instruments?¹⁰

(3) Are there objective differences between long-dated and short-dated foreign exchange forwards and swaps such that one class may be less suited to regulation as "swaps" under the CEA than the other? Is the same true for dealer to dealer transactions versus transactions where one counterparty is a non-dealer? Similarly, does one or more of the above-referenced, five statutory factors support the application of certain requirements set forth in the CEA, but not others (e.g., centralized clearing, but not exchange trading), to foreign exchange swaps and/or foreign exchange forwards?

(4) What are the primary risks in the foreign exchange swaps and forwards market, how significant are these risks, and how are these risks currently managed by market participants? Would centralized clearing and exchange trading address these risks? To what extent do current payment-versus-payment settlement arrangements address settlement risk?

(5) To what extent is counterparty credit risk a significant concern in the foreign exchange swaps and forwards markets? If so, to what extent do current market practices (including netting and bilateral collateral support arrangements) mitigate these risks? What evidence, particularly during the period between 2007 and present, illustrate how current market practices have either addressed, or failed to respond, to these risks?

(6) Are there ways to mitigate the risks posed by the trading of foreign exchange swaps or foreign exchange forwards without subjecting these instruments to regulation under the CEA?

(7) Are there existing safeguards or systems that should be enhanced in order to protect against systemic or other risks in the foreign exchange swaps and forwards markets? What considerations are relevant to the application of Title VIII of the Dodd-Frank Act to the foreign exchange swaps and forwards markets, specifically to enhance supervision, strengthen risk management, and lower systemic risk?

(8) Given that the Dodd-Frank Act requires all foreign exchange swaps and forwards be reported to a swap data

repository, what is the current standard or practice in the foreign exchange market for reporting trades?

(9) What would be the likely effects of mandatory U.S. clearing of foreign exchange swaps and/or forwards on foreign exchange market liquidity in the U.S. dollar? What would be the impact on the operations of U.S. end-users and U.S. dealers?

(10) What other factors should the Secretary of the Treasury consider in determining whether to exempt foreign exchange swaps and/or forwards pursuant to section 1a(47) of the CEA?

In addition, commenters are encouraged to submit supporting materials, including relevant transactional data, that would assist the Secretary's consideration of the issues relating to an exemption for foreign exchange swaps or foreign exchange forwards, or both, under section 1a(47) of the CEA.

Dated: October 19, 2010.

Mary J. Miller,

Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets.

[FR Doc. 2010-27274 Filed 10-27-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-25-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 13551

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 13551, Application to Participate in the IRS Acceptance Agent Program.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before December 27, 2010 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Gerald Shields, Internal Revenue Service, Room 6129, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Elaine Christophe,

(202) 622-3179, or at Internal Revenue Service, Room 6129, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224, or through the Internet, at Elaine.H.Christophe@irs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application to Participate in the IRS Acceptance Agent Program.

OMB Number: 1545-1896.

Form Number: 13551.

Abstract: Form 13551 is used to gather information to determine applicant's eligibility in the Acceptance Agent Program.

Current Actions: There are no changes being made to the form at this time.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, and Federal, state, local or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 12,825.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,413.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

¹⁰ 7 U.S.C. 1b(b)(2).