Headlines:

FMC – requests for testimony by employees; DOE – application to export LNG; TVA – review of floating houses; Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal – risk assessment; US-CERT – Microsoft IE vulnerability; and House – hearing on USACE Chief's Reports.

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FMC – requests for testimony by employees

The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) promulgated a direct final rule amending its regulations relating to requests for testimony by employees relating to official information and to production of official records in litigation. The amendments will enter into effect on 31 July unless significant adverse comments are received by 2 June. 79 Fed. Reg. 24350 (April 30, 2014).

DOE – application to export LNG

The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice stating that it received an application from Cheniere Marketing LLC requesting blanket authorization to export previously imported liquefied natural gas (LNG). Comments on the application must be received by 30 May. 79 Fed. Reg. 24411 (April 30, 2014).

TVA – review of floating houses

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) issued a notice stating that it is conducting a review of the recent growth in the Tennessee River watershed of floating houses and nonnavigable houseboats designed and used primarily for human habitation and potential management actions that TVA may take in response to the proliferation of these structures. Public scoping meetings will be held in May and June. Written comments must be received by 29 July. 79 Fed. Reg. 24485 (April 30, 2014).

Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal - risk assessment

The US Coast Guard posted the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal (CSSC) Marine Safety Risk Assessment. The assessment, conducted in four phases, examined the risks posed to commercial and recreational mariners transiting the CSSC, with particular emphasis on the electric fish dispersal barrier. The assessment found that the current rules governing vessel transit substantially mitigate the risks associated with the barrier. It did find, though, that higher risk scenarios involve a person falling into the water, either from a passing vessel or from the riverbank, and receiving an electric shock. The report makes recommendations to further reduce these risks. (4/29/14).

US-CERT – Microsoft IE vulnerability

The US Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) issued Guidance regarding the recently-discovered vulnerability of the Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE). (4/28/14).

House – hearing on USACE Chief's Reports

The Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a hearing on "A Review of Recent US Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Reports and Post Authorization Change Reports". Testimony was received from MGEN John Peabody, USA, who provided information on the agency's Planning Modernization initiative. (4/29/14).

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If you have questions regarding the above items, please contact the editor:

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