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APHIS – user fees;
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NFAC – meeting on 13 November;
NOSAC – meeting on 18-19 November;
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DOE – LNG import and export;
FMC – petition for regulatory exemption;
USCG – Arctic SAR exercise;
CMTS – federal funding handbook; and
Canada – investigation of Leviathan II accident.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Note: This newsletter is one section of the [Bryant's Maritime Consulting](http://brymar-consulting.com) website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining [Dennis Bryant](mailto:dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com) directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format, requiring use of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by email to the editor or by going to the blog page on the website and clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily newsletter is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. Information is not lost in a black hole – it is merely misplaced in the dark.

EPA – NPDES electronic reporting



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated a final rule requiring the electronic reporting and sharing of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program information instead of the current paper-based reporting of this information. The rule enters into effect on 21 December. **80 Fed. Reg. 64063** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-22/pdf/2015-24954.pdf>] (10/22/15). *Note: This requirement applies to, among other things, vessel general permit (VGP) reports.*

APHIS – user fees



The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) promulgated a final rule amending the user fee regulations by adding new fee categories and adjusting current fees for certain agricultural quarantine and inspection services that are provided in connection with certain commercial vessels and others. The amendments enter into effect on 28 December. **80 Fed. Reg. 66747** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-29/pdf/2015-27363.pdf>] (10/29/15).

NBSAC – meeting on 12-13 November



The National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 12-13 November in Arlington, Virginia. Topics on the agenda include adoption of electronic aids to navigation, alternatives to pyrotechnic visual distress signals, and life jacket carriage requirements. **80 Fed. Reg. 64435** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-23/pdf/2015-27056.pdf>] (10/23/15).

NFAC – meeting on 13 November



The National Freight Advisory Committee (NFAC), sponsored by the Department of Transportation (DOT), will meet on 13 November in Washington, DC to develop comments on the draft National Freight Strategic Plan. **80 Fed. Reg. 66616** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-29/pdf/2015-27607.pdf>] (10/29/15).

NOSAC – meeting on 18-19 November



The National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 18-19 November in Katy, Texas to consider, among other things, cyber security, lifeboat safety, and towing of MODUs. **80 Fed. Reg. 66015** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-28/pdf/2015-27419.pdf>] (10/28/15).

CBP – quarterly interest rates



The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a notice stating, for the quarter beginning on 1 October 2015, that the quarterly interest rates for

overpayments will be 2% for corporations and 3% for non-corporations and for underpayments will be 3% for both. **80 Fed. Reg. 66016** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-28/pdf/2015-27437.pdf>] (10/28/15).

DOE – LNG import and export



The Department of Energy (DOE) issued a notice stating that it issued orders granting authority to, among other things, import and export liquefied natural gas (LNG). **80 Fed. Reg. 65220** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-26/pdf/2015-27193.pdf>] (10/26/15).

FMC – petition for regulatory exemption



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that it received a petition from Pacific International Lines (PIL) and Mariana Express Lines (MELL) for an exemption from the requirement to file agreements between the petitioners. Comments on the petition must be received by 13 November. **80 Fed. Reg. 64415** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-10-23/pdf/2015-27053.pdf>] (10/23/15).

USCG – Arctic SAR exercise



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2618330/>] stating that Arctic Zephyr, an international Arctic search and rescue (SAR) table-top exercise, was conducted in Anchorage on 19-22 October. Participants included representatives from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States. In addition, there were representatives from the Arctic cruise industry, Alaska Northwest, and North Slope Boroughs. (10/28/15).

CMTS – Federal Funding Handbook



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) has updated its **Federal Funding Handbook** for Marine Transportation System Infrastructure [located at <http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=98>]. The handbook is a compilation of the more than 85 federal programs that provide grants, loans, loan guarantees, or direct funding for infrastructure investments related to the marine transportation system and intermodal connections. (10/28/15).

Canada – investigation of Leviathan II accident



The Canadian Transportation Safety Board (TSB) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/medias-media/communiques/marine/2015/m15p0347-20151027.asp>] providing an update of its investigation into the 25 October accident near Tofino, British Columbia involving the passenger vessel Leviathan II. There were five fatalities and one person is missing. At the time of the accident, most of the passengers and crew were on the top deck, port side, thus raising the center of gravity. A wave struck from the starboard side, causing the vessel to broach and capsize. The investigation will include review of the vessel's stability information and any modifications that may have been made that may have affected stability. (10/27/15).

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