Headlines:

USCG NMC – training provider course completion issues; DHS – civil monetary penalties; Washington – barge company fined \$18,000; and Washington – hybrid electric ferries to be considered.

April 2, 2018



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USCG NMC – training provider course completion issues

The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a bulletin announcing that the training provider course completion data uploaded to the NMC using the Homeport application may not be processing properly. Awaiting resolution, mariners and training providers are encouraged to take alternative steps laid out in the bulletin. (3/30/18)

[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2018/homeport_course_completion_uploads.pdf].

DHS – civil monetary penalties

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) promulgated a final rule making 2018 annual inflation adjustments to its civil monetary penalties. The new penalties will be effective for penalties assessed hereafter whose associated violations occurred after 2 November 2015. 83 Fed. Reg. 13826

(4/2/18) [https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-04-02/pdf/2018-06486.pdf].

Washington – barge company fined \$18,000

The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) issued a news release stating that a local barge company has been fined \$18,000 for spilling 40,000 gallons of liquid urea ammonium nitrate into the Snake and Columbia Rivers in three incidents. Along with the fine, the company is required to take immediate action to prevent future urea ammonium nitrate releases and submit to Ecology an annual comprehensive corrosion management plan for its barges. (3/19/18) [https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/News/2018/Barge-company-fined-for-spilling-liquid-fertilizer].

Washington – hybrid electric ferries to be considered

Washington Governor Jay Inslee signed into law An Act Relating to Transportation Funding and Appropriations (SB 6106). Among other things, the bill includes \$600,000 for development of a request for proposal to convert the three Washington State Ferry vessels in the Jumbo Mark II class to hybrid electric propulsion. (3/27/18) [http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Passed%20Legislature/6106-S.PL.pdf].

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