

ity of the receiver as specified in subdivision 100.19(g), the annual costs of implementation of receivership could be in the range of \$4 million to \$5.5 million dollars.

4. MINIMIZING ADVERSE IMPACT:

The rule is necessary to implement Education Law section 211-f by establishing criteria for the appointment of receivers to assist low performing schools. Consequently, the major provisions of the rule are statutorily imposed and it is not feasible to establish differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables or to exempt schools in rural areas from coverage by the proposed rule. Nevertheless, a substantial effort was made to involve school districts and other interested parties in the development of this rule, and their comments were considered in drafting the proposed rule.

The Department has taken steps to minimize the possible adverse impact of the proposed rule by including stakeholders in the decision making process. The Department also intends to take steps to provide sufficient notice of the proposed rule to ensure that school districts are made aware of the rule's requirements so they may timely prepare for implementation. The Department will also take steps to share a variety of resources with school districts to provide guidance with implementation.

5. RURAL AREA PARTICIPATION:

With the approval of the Board of Regents at its May 18-19, 2015 meeting, Department staff solicited comments and recommendations from groups that included teams from school districts with one or more eligible priority schools; district superintendents; Statewide representatives of parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, and school boards; educational partnership organizations; representatives of State agencies that provide health, mental health, child welfare, and job services; representatives of organizations involved in and concerned with the education of English language learners, students with disabilities and students in temporary housing; and technical experts in school receivership, expanded learning, and community school models. A meeting of these key stakeholders was held on May 27, 2015, where more than 100 participants provided their feedback on draft express terms that were presented to the Board of Regents in May, and many of their suggestions were incorporated in the proposed rule presented for emergency adoption at the June 15-16, 2015 Regents meeting.

6. INITIAL REVIEW OF RULE (SAPA § 207):

Pursuant to State Administrative Procedure Act § 207(1)(b), the State Education Department proposes that the initial review of this rule shall occur in the fifth calendar year after the year in which the rule is adopted, instead of in the third calendar year. The justification for a five-year review period is that the proposed rule is necessary to ensure implementation of Education Law section 211-f, as added by Part EE, Subpart H of Ch. 56 of the Laws of 2015, by establishing criteria for the appointment of receivers to assist low-performing schools to make demonstrable improvement in student performance. Consequently, the major, substantive provisions of the proposed rule are statutorily imposed and cannot be changed without further Legislative action.

The Department invites public comment on the proposed five-year review period for this rule. Comments should be sent to the agency contact listed in item number 16 of the Notice of Emergency Adoption and Proposed Rule Making published herewith, and must be received within 45 days of the date the State Register publishes the Notice.

Job Impact Statement

The proposed rule relates to public school and school district accountability and is necessary to implement and otherwise conform the Commissioner's Regulations to Education Law section 211-f, as added by Part EE, Subpart H of Ch. 56 of the Laws of 2015, by establishing criteria for the appointment of receivers to assist low performing schools to make demonstrable improvement in student performance. The statute designates current Priority Schools that have been in the most severe accountability status since the 2006-07 school year as "Persistently Failing Schools" (identified in the proposed regulation as "Persistently Struggling Schools") and identifies schools that have been identified as Priority since the 2012-13 school year as "Failing Schools" (identified in the proposed regulation as "Struggling Schools") and vests the superintendent of the district with the powers of an independent receiver.

The proposed rule applies to public schools that are Struggling or Persistently Struggling and placed into receivership and will not result in an adverse impact on jobs or employment opportunities. In accordance with Education Law section 211-f(7)(b) and (c), a school receiver may abolish the positions of all members of the teaching and administrative and supervisory staff assigned to the Struggling or Persistently Struggling School and terminate the employment of any principal assigned to such a school and require staff members to reapply for their positions in the school if they so choose. Although the school receiver may choose not to rehire a maximum of fifty percent of the former staff, it is anticipated that those staff members will be replaced by other individuals and will not cause a net loss in positions at the school.

Furthermore, an apportionment of \$75 million in State funds will be available to Persistently Struggling Schools for the implementation of the Receivership process during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. Since school districts are expected to use a portion of this allocation to implement strategies that may require hiring of new staff for these schools, this will result in a net gain of jobs. It is also possible that to meet the requirements of school receivership in Struggling Schools, which are not eligible for the \$75 million grant, districts may choose to hire additional staff to implement the provisions of receivership.

Assessment of Public Comment

The agency received no public comment.

Department of Environmental Conservation

EMERGENCY/PROPOSED RULE MAKING HEARING(S) SCHEDULED

Chemical Bulk Storage (CBS)

I.D. No. ENV-19-16-00006-EP

Filing No. 434

Filing Date: 2016-04-25

Effective Date: 2016-04-25

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE State Administrative Procedure Act, NOTICE is hereby given of the following action:

Proposed Action: Amendment of Part 597 of Title 6 NYCRR.

Statutory authority: Environmental Conservation Law, sections 1-0101, 3-0301, 3-0303, 17-0301, 17-0303, 17-0501, 17-1743, 27-1301, 37-0101 through 37-0107 and 40-0101 through 40-0121

Finding of necessity for emergency rule: Preservation of public health.

Specific reasons underlying the finding of necessity: The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has requested that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) add perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA-acid, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) No. 335-67-1), ammonium perfluorooctanoate (PFOA-salt, CAS No. 3825-26-1), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS-acid, CAS No. 1763-23-1), and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS-salt, CAS No. 2795-39-3) to 6 NYCRR Section 597.3, List of Hazardous Substances. DEC has concluded that these four substances meet the definition of a hazardous substance based upon the conclusion of the NYSDOH that prolonged exposure to significantly elevated levels of these compounds can affect health and, consequently, pose a threat to public health in New York State when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed. NYSDOH scientists have concluded that it is essential to list these chemicals as hazardous substances. See the Regulatory Impact Statement for additional information, including NYSDOH's letter requesting that these chemicals be added to the List of Hazardous Substances (Section 597.3).

It is essential to immediately identify PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt as hazardous substances pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 597.3, thereby making them hazardous wastes pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law Section 27-1301, and enabling DEC to exert its enforcement authorities and to expend funds from the Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund to clean up the contaminant. The emergency rule will provide DEC with authority to take immediate action to protect public health. To the extent elevated levels of PFOA-related and PFOS-related substances are identified throughout the State, DEC needs the authority to act expeditiously.

Subject: Chemical Bulk Storage (CBS).

Purpose: To amend Part 597 of the CBS regulations.

Public hearing(s) will be held at: 2:00 p.m., June 27, 2016 at Empire State Plaza, Meeting Rm. 6, Albany, NY; 2:00 p.m., June 28, 2016 at RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 W. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta, NY; and 2:00 p.m., June 30, 2016 at Nassau Community College, One Education Dr., Garden City, NY.

Details are available on NYSDEC's website at <http://dec.ny.gov/regulations/104968.html>

Interpreter Service: Interpreter services will be made available to hearing impaired persons, at no charge, upon written request submitted within rea-

sonable time prior to the scheduled public hearing. The written request must be addressed to the agency representative designated in the paragraph below.

Accessibility: All public hearings have been scheduled at places reasonably accessible to persons with a mobility impairment.

Text of emergency/proposed rule: 6 NYCRR Part 597 is amended to read as follows:

Existing subdivision 597.1(a) through paragraph 597.1(b)(1) remain unchanged.

Existing paragraph 597.1(b)(2) is amended to read as follows:

(2) Chemical [a]Abstracts [s]Service number or CAS number is the unique identifier for a chemical substance assigned by the CAS division of the American Chemical Society.

Existing paragraph 597.1(b)(3) through section 597.2 remain unchanged.

Existing section 597.3 is amended to read as follows:

597.3 List of hazardous substances

Table 1 sets forth the list of hazardous substances in alphabetical order. Table 2 sets forth the list of hazardous substances in Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number order.

Table 1 and Table 2 are amended to read as follows:

Table 1 – Alphabetical Order				
CASRN	Substance	RQ Air (pounds)	RQ Land/ Water (pounds)	Notes
3825-26-1	Ammonium Perfluorooctanoate	1	1	
2795-39-3	Perfluorooctane Sulfonate	1	1	
1763-23-1	Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid	1	1	
335-67-1	Perfluorooctanoic Acid	1	1	

Table 2 – CAS Number Order				
CASRN	Substance	RQ Air (pounds)	RQ Land/ Water (pounds)	Notes
335-67-1	Perfluorooctanoic Acid	1	1	
1763-23-1	Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid	1	1	
2795-39-3	Perfluorooctane Sulfonate	1	1	
3825-26-1	Ammonium Perfluorooctanoate	1	1	

Existing subdivision 597.4(a) is amended to read as follows:

(a) Prohibition of releases.

The release of a hazardous substance which is required to be reported pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section is prohibited unless:

(1) such release is authorized; [or]

(2) such release is continuous and stable in quantity and rate and has been reported pursuant to paragraph (b)(4) of this section[.]; or

(3) such release is of fire-fighting foam containing Perfluorooctanoic Acid (CAS No. 335-67-1), Ammonium Perfluorooctanoate (CAS No. 3825-26-1), Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (CAS No. 1763-23-1), or Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (CAS No. 2795-39-3) used for fighting fires (but not for training purposes) and occurs on or before April 25, 2017. In the event there is a release of such foam that exceeds the reportable quantity of any hazardous substance, the release must be reported pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section.

Existing subdivision 597.4(b) remains unchanged.

This notice is intended: to serve as both a notice of emergency adoption and a notice of proposed rule making. The emergency rule will expire July 23, 2016.

Text of rule and any required statements and analyses may be obtained from: Russ Brauksieck, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7020, (518) 402-9553, email: derweb@dec.ny.gov

Data, views or arguments may be submitted to: Same as above.

Public comment will be received until: Five days after the last scheduled public hearing.

Additional matter required by statute: Negative Declaration, Coastal Assessment Form, and Short Environmental Assessment Form have been completed for this proposed rule making.

This rule was not under consideration at the time this agency submitted its Regulatory Agenda for publication in the Register.

Summary of Regulatory Impact Statement

Full text of the Regulatory Impact Statement is available on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/104968.html>

1. STATUTORY AUTHORITY

The State law authority that empowers the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) to create a list of hazardous substances is found in Title one of Article 37 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), sections 37-0101 through 37-0111, entitled “Substances Hazardous to the Environment” (Article 37). The Department is authorized to adopt regulations to implement ECL provisions (ECL sections 3-0301(2)(a) and (m)) which includes listing “substances hazardous to the public health, safety or environment” which “because of their quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics cause physical injury or illness when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed” in 6 NYCRR Part 597.

2. LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

The legislative objectives underlying Article 37 are directed toward establishing a list of hazardous substances which pose a threat to public health or the environment. The emergency rule adds perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA-acid, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) No. 335-67-1), ammonium perfluorooctanoate (PFOA-salt, CAS No. 3825-26-1), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS-acid, CAS No. 1763-23-1), and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS-salt, CAS No. 2795-39-3) to the list of hazardous substances in 6 NYCRR Section 597.3 (Section 597.3). The proposed rule, upon adoption, makes the amendments permanent.

3. NEEDS AND BENEFITS

The purpose of the emergency rule and proposed rule is to:

1. Add PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and the PFOS-salt to Section 597.3;

2. Allow fire-fighting foam containing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt to be used to fight fires (but not for any other purposes) on or before April 25, 2017; and

3. Correct the list of hazardous substances by providing units for the reportable quantities (RQs).

Needs and Benefits of Adding PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt to the List of Hazardous Substances

The Department promulgated an emergency rule on January 27, 2016 to add PFOA-acid to the list of hazardous substances in Section 597.3. Since then, the Department became aware of three additional substances that need to be added to the list of hazardous substances. These additional substances have physical, chemical, and toxicological properties similar to PFOA-acid. The Department decided to allow the January 27, 2016 emergency rule to expire and to undertake the emergency and proposed rule to include all four substances on the list of hazardous substances.

The Department has concluded that these four substances meet the definition of hazardous substance based upon the conclusion of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) that the combined weight of evidence from human and experimental animal studies indicates that prolonged exposure to significantly elevated levels of these compounds can affect health and, consequently, pose a threat to public health in New York State when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed. NYSDOH scientists have concluded that it is essential to list these chemicals as hazardous substances. See the Regulatory Impact Statement for additional information, including NYSDOH’s letter requesting that these chemicals be added to the List of Hazardous Substances (Section 597.3).

There are at least three benefits of listing these substances as hazardous substances in Part 597. First, if a mixture containing one of these substances in concentrations of 1% or more is stored in an aboveground tank of 185 gallons or more or any size underground tank, the tank would be subject to the requirements of the Chemical Bulk Storage (CBS) regulations (6 NYCRR Parts 596 – 599) with the purpose of preventing leaks and spills to protect public health and the environment. Second, releases to the environment are prohibited (subdivision 597.4(a)). Any release of one pound or more of these substances must be reported to the Department’s spill hotline (subdivision 597.4(b)). Third, if one of these substances is released, the Department is authorized to pursue clean-up of the contamination under one of the Department’s remedial programs (6 NYCRR Part 375) and may expend funds under the “State Superfund” if a responsible party is unwilling or unable to undertake the remediation.

Need and Benefit of Allowing Continued Use of Fire-Fighting Foam

These four substances have been used in Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF). While their use was restricted or reportedly removed from new products by December 2015, AFFF containing these substances are likely stored at some facilities since the reported shelf-life of AFFF is up to 25 years. In accordance with existing 6 NYCRR subdivision 597.4(a), the release of a hazardous substance is prohibited. This rule adds a provision allowing entities with fire-fighting foam to determine if stored foam contains these hazardous substances. If so, the facility would be required to arrange for proper disposal of the foam by April 25, 2017. Replacement foam may not contain a hazardous substance at a concentration that would result in the release of more than the RQ (one pound) when used as a fire-fighting foam. Prior to April 25, 2017, entities storing this foam would be allowed to use the foam, as needed, to fight fires to protect public safety but not for any other purpose such as training. If the foam is used to fight a fire and there is a release of one pound or more of a hazardous substance, the release must be reported to the Department's spill hotline to allow the Department to determine if remediation of the release is appropriate.

Need for Correction of the List of Hazardous Substances

A correction is being made to the tables listing hazardous substances. It was determined that the units for RQs were left off the table causing some uncertainty regarding when a release would need to be reported. This rule adds units back to the column heading of the table.

4. COSTS

Costs to Regulated Parties

Because the use of these chemicals is limited by United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the CBS tank system requirements for handling and storing these chemicals do not apply until April 25, 2018, the Department expects that compliance costs will be minimal. For example, if a facility is storing one of these substances in a 5,000 gallon aboveground storage tank, the two-year registration fee would be \$125. If the facility were to discontinue storage by April 25, 2018, when the storage and handling standards go into effect, there would be no substantive costs beyond payment of the registration fee. If the facility were to continue to store one of these substances, it would be subject to the costs of complying with the handling and storage requirements in Parts 598 and 599.

With one possible exception (entities with fire-fighting foam), the release prohibition should not present unusual compliance costs for persons who may be in possession of PFOA-containing or PFOS-containing substances. Since the Department recognizes the important societal interest of ensuring the availability of materials to control fires, persons have until April 25, 2017 to determine if foam contains hazardous substances and replace the foam if necessary. If fire-fighting foam contains a hazardous substance, it cannot be released to the environment after April 25, 2017. The Department anticipates that replacement foams would be purchased and that old foam containing a hazardous substance would be disposed of in accordance with applicable requirements. The cost to replace the foam ranges from \$16 to \$32 per gallon, depending on the amount and type of foam. Since use of these substances has been restricted or phased-out, the Department is uncertain how many regulated parties may be in possession of fire-fighting foams that contain one of these substances.

The costs of complying with the requirements of Part 375 to implement a remedial program where the four substances are primary contaminants will vary widely as costs depend upon many factors. Thus, it is not possible to meaningfully estimate potential remedial costs other than to note that remedial program costs for other hazardous substances range from the thousands to millions of dollars.

Costs to the Department, State, and Local Government

The Department will incur costs to administer the CBS program and to oversee of site remediation by responsible parties. In cases where a responsible party is unwilling or unable to undertake remediation, the costs of the remediation would be incurred by the Department (subject to efforts to recover the costs).

State and local governments will incur costs making determinations regarding whether products containing one of these substances are stored at their facilities.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATES

No additional recordkeeping, reporting, or other requirements not already created by statute or described above would be imposed on local governments. This is not a local government mandate.

6. PAPERWORK

The emergency rule and proposed rule contain no substantive changes to existing reporting and record keeping requirements, except for those newly subject to this regulation.

7. DUPLICATION

The listing of PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt as hazardous substances in Part 597 causes no duplication, overlap or conflict with any other state or federal government programs or rules.

8. ALTERNATIVES

The only alternative to listing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt as hazardous substances considered by the Department, the no action alternative, was not taken. The Department declined to take no action because, as determined by NYSDOH, the combined weight of evidence from human and experimental animal studies indicates that prolonged exposure to significantly elevated levels of these compounds can affect health and, consequently, pose a threat to public health in New York State when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

9. FEDERAL STANDARDS

Listing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt as hazardous substances exceeds the current federal approach, as USEPA has not listed these substances as any of the substances defined as hazardous substances under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C Section 9601, et seq., or under the applicable regulation, 40 CFR Part 302 ("Designation, Reportable Quantities, and Notification"). Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, USEPA worked with industry to voluntarily phase out the use of PFOA-related substances by December 2015, and proposed a significant new use rule, completed in 2002, to limit production and importation of PFOA-related substances.

10. COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

A facility that stores one of these substances that is subject to the CBS registration requirements is required to submit its registration application to the Department when it becomes subject to regulation. If a facility is already storing one of these substances and is subject to the registration requirements, the requirement became effective on April 25, 2016, the effective date of this emergency rule. If a facility begins storing one of these substances and is subject to the registration requirements, it must obtain a valid registration certificate prior to storing the material. Facilities with existing storage are not required to comply with the handling and storage requirements for hazardous substances until April 25, 2018 (6 NYCRR subdivision 598.1(h)). The Department expects that facilities that currently store one of these substances will phase out storage of the substance prior to April 25, 2018, and, therefore, will not have significant CBS compliance requirements beyond the registration requirement.

Existing Part 597 prohibits the release of a hazardous substance to the environment (subdivision 597.4(a)). This emergency rule and proposed rule allow entities storing fire-fighting foam to use the foam until April 25, 2017 while they determine if the foam contains one of these hazardous substances. If the foam does contain one of the substances, the foam must not be released to the environment after April 25, 2017. However, if the foam is used to fight a fire and there is a release of one pound or more of a hazardous substance, the release needs to be reported to the Department's spill hotline (subdivision 597.4(b)).

Listing these substances as hazardous substances results in sites contaminated with one of these substances being subject to the inactive hazardous waste disposal sites regulatory requirements of Part 375, which sets forth requirements for remediation. Remedial programs for a site tend to be complex, multi-phased, and take from a few to many years to complete.

Summary of Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Full text of the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for Small Businesses & Local Governments is available on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/104968.html>

1. EFFECT OF RULE

The purpose of the emergency rule and proposed rule is to:

1. Add perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA-acid, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) No. 335-67-1), ammonium perfluorooctanoate (PFOA-salt, CAS No. 3825-26-1), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS-acid, CAS No. 1763-23-1), and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS-salt, CAS No. 2795-39-3) to 6 NYCRR Section 597.3;

2. Allow fire-fighting foam containing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt (all four substances) to be used to fight fires (but not for training or any other purposes) on or before April 25, 2017, a use which would not otherwise be allowed under the regulation since the release of a hazardous substance is prohibited; and

3. Correct the list of hazardous substances by providing units for reportable quantities (RQs).

The emergency rule and proposed rule apply statewide in all 62 counties of New York State (State). The listing of the hazardous substances has two effects. First, facilities storing all four substances are now (upon the effective date of the emergency rule) subject to registration requirements (6 NYCRR Part 596) with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) under the Department's Chemical Bulk Storage (CBS) program. Facilities must comply with the applicable handling and storage requirements (6 NYCRR Parts 598-599).

Production of all four substances has already been restricted or report-

edly phased out and replaced with alternative substances. Facilities storing products containing any of the four substances manufactured prior to the manufacturing phase-out will be subject to CBS registration requirements. Older stocks of fire-fighting foam containing any of the four substances will be subject to the CBS registration requirements. If the stored foam contains PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt, the facility would be required to arrange for the proper disposal of the foam by April 25, 2017. Small businesses are not likely to store these foams in quantities (explained below). Large local government agencies (fire departments, fire districts) possibly maintain stocks of fire-fighting foam that could be subject to the registration requirement. The number of facilities that would be required to register as CBS facilities is expected to be small and go to zero as stocks of the four substances are eliminated.

Most facilities subject to the CBS regulations are municipal facilities, manufacturing facilities, and utilities. There are over 1,400 registered CBS facilities. The Department believes that the great majority of facility owners and operators are likely small businesses. Local governments have registered over 580 CBS facilities. The Department believes that the types of facilities registered by local governments are water and wastewater treatment facilities and are not expected to store any of the four substances.

The Department only collects information regarding the name, address, and contact information for the owner and operator of registered facilities. Hence, the Department cannot estimate the number of small businesses which are CBS regulated (6 NYCRR Parts 596 through 599) or will be regulated due to the emergency rule and proposed rule.

The second effect of the promulgation of this rule is the permanent prohibition of releases of any of the four substances to the environment. The prohibition takes effect on April 25, 2017 for fire-fighting foams. The release prohibition now applies to the four substances including any older stocks of fire-fighting foams and any material containing the four substances stored by small businesses or local governments. This will require local government and small businesses to dispose of materials containing the four substances. Releases of listed hazardous substances above the reportable quantity (RQ) given in Part 597 (one pound for the four substances) must be reported to the Department's Spill Hotline (subdivision 597.4(b)).

The number of sites that will become remedial sites because of the addition of these four substances to Part 597 is unknown. The Department has placed one site on the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (Registry) as a result of adding PFOA-acid to Part 597 (Site Registry ID No. 442046). The Department expects that other sites that used the any of the four substances in commercial or industrial processes may have environmental contamination. Locations where disposal of the substances occurred or where the substances were components of materials released to the environment may become remedial sites subject to the requirements of Part 375.

The Department anticipates that remediation issues would be most significant for areas where the substances were either manufactured, used to make other products, released, or disposed of. Based upon currently available information, the four substances have not been manufactured in New York State, but have been used here to create other products. It is not known how many small businesses or local governments own properties that will be subject to the regulatory requirements of Part 375 because of contamination from these four substances.

2. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

This rule makes no changes to any substantive requirement for CBS facilities other than to place the four substances on the list of hazardous substances in Part 597.

Facilities that store the any of the four substances in amounts and in tanks that make them subject to the registration requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 596 must include tank systems on facility registrations with the Department and pay the registration fee associated with the CBS program. The fees range from \$50 per tank for tanks with capacities less than 550 gallons to \$125 per tank for capacities greater than 1,100 gallons.

If a facility is already storing any of the four substances and is subject to the registration requirements, the registration requirement became effective on April 25, 2016, the effective date of this emergency rule. A facility planning to start storing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt must obtain a valid registration certificate prior to storage. Facilities with existing storage of these substances are not required to comply with the handling and storage requirements for hazardous substances until April 25, 2018 (6 NYCRR subdivision 598.1(h)). The Department anticipates that facilities that currently store any of the four substances will phase out their storage of the substance prior to April 25, 2018 and therefore would not have substantive CBS compliance requirements beyond the registration requirement.

Listing the four substances as hazardous results in sites otherwise meeting regulatory criteria to be subject to the inactive hazardous waste disposal sites regulatory requirements of Part 375 for the first time. In these cases, requirements for investigation and cleanup are established by Part

375 and by Department orders and agreements with regulated entities. Part 375 sets forth site investigation requirements which determine the nature and extent of environmental contamination, evaluate remedial alternatives, design and construct a remedy, complete the operation and maintenance activities required to achieve the site remedial action objectives, and maintain any institutional or engineering controls which make the remedy effective. Remedial programs for a site tend to be complex, multi-phased, and take from a few to many years to complete.

3. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

No new or additional professional services will be needed for small businesses or local governments to comply with this rule. Facilities continuing to store the substances after April 25, 2018, when the storage and handling standards go into effect, may need professional services to meet hazardous substances handling and storage requirements.

A small business or local government which becomes a remedial party subject Part 375 remedial program requirements, will require consulting and contractual services, including professional engineers or qualified environmental professionals as defined in Part 375 and contractual services needed to undertake site investigation field work, analyses of environmental samples, or other specialized services.

4. COMPLIANCE COSTS

Production of the four substances has been phased out and the substantive CBS tank system requirements for their handling and storage will not apply until April 25, 2018. The Department expects that the compliance costs for meeting the CBS requirements will be minimal. If the facility discontinues storage by April 25, 2018, when the storage and handling standards go into effect, there will be no other substantive costs.

The release prohibition will not present significant compliance costs for small businesses and local governments.

Part 375 compliance costs for remedial program implementation where any of the four substances are the primary contaminants will vary widely. Costs are related to the following: quantity released to the environment, media contaminated (e.g., soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment, bedrock), the horizontal and vertical extent of contamination, the accessibility of contamination, whether there are human or environmental receptors to protect while a remedial program is undertaken, the difficulty of removing the substances from the contaminated environmental media, the anticipated future use of the area of contamination, and other factors. It is not possible to meaningfully estimate the potential costs to small businesses and local governments resulting from listing the substances as hazardous. Remedial program costs for other hazardous substances have ranged from the thousands to millions of dollars on a case-by-case basis.

5. ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FEASIBILITY

The economic and technological feasibility for small businesses or local governments related to compliance with this rule depends upon which requirements apply. If small businesses or local governments are required to comply with CBS registration requirements only, no significant impediments will be faced. If a CBS facility decides to store the substances after April 25, 2018, when the storage and handling standards go into effect, costs would be incurred to comply with handling and storage requirements. Costs could include design, construction, and maintenance of tank systems to meet the technical requirements for release prevention, release detection, and containment of potential spills. No technological feasibility issues will exist, but costs would be incurred commensurate with storage amounts.

The economic and technical feasibility of complying with the requirements to remediate a site contaminated by the substances for a small business or local government is explained above in compliance costs.

6. MINIMIZING ADVERSE IMPACT

The Department is adopting this emergency rule and proceeding with this proposed rule based upon the conclusion of NYSDOH that the combined weight of evidence from human and experimental animal studies indicates that prolonged exposure to significantly elevated levels of these compounds can affect health and, consequently, pose a threat to public health in New York State when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed. See the Regulatory Impact Statement for additional information, including NYSDOH's letter requesting that these chemicals be added to the List of Hazardous Substances (Section 597.3).

7. SMALL BUSINESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

The Department will ensure public notice and input by issuing public notices in the State Register and newspapers, publication in the Department's Environmental Notice Bulletin, holding a comment period of at least 45 days, and holding public hearings. Interested parties, including small businesses and local governments, will have the opportunity to submit comments and participate in public hearings. The Department will post relevant rule making documents on the Department's website.

8. CURE PERIOD OR OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR AMELIORATIVE ACTION

There can be no ameliorative actions or cure period regarding the prohibition against releasing the four substances to the environment because the prohibition is absolute and intended to prevent the harm that would come to public health. Prolonged exposure to significantly elevated levels of these compounds can affect health and, consequently, pose a threat to public health in New York State when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed. The concept of a cure period does not apply in the case of a remedial program.

If a facility subject to the CBS facility registration requirement for the any of the four substances fails to register its facility in accordance with Part 596, the facility owner/operator will be subject to penalties that have been in place and exercised by the Department for all types of parties for decades, including small businesses and local governments. Therefore, no additional ameliorative actions or cure period established for this rule regarding CBS registration or handling and storage requirements.

9. INITIAL REVIEW OF THE RULE

DEC would conduct an initial review of the rule within three years of the promulgation of the final rule.

Rural Area Flexibility Analysis

1. TYPES AND ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RURAL AREAS

There are 44 counties in New York State (State) that have populations of less than 200,000 people and 71 towns in non-rural counties where the population density is less than 150 people per square mile. Since the emergency rule and proposed rule apply statewide, they apply to all rural as well as non-rural areas of the State. The emergency rule adds perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA-acid, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) No. 335-67-1), ammonium perfluorooctanoate (PFOA-salt, CAS No. 3825-26-1), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS-acid, CAS No. 1763-23-1), and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS-salt, CAS No. 2795-39-3) to the list of hazardous substances in 6 NYCRR Section 597.3 (Section 597.3). This rule also provides time for facilities storing fire-fighting foam containing one or more of these newly listed hazardous substances to properly dispose of it, and makes a correction to the tables of hazardous substances in Part 597 by providing units for reportable quantities (RQs). There is no reason to believe that the actions under this rule will disproportionately impact rural areas.

2. REPORTING, RECORDKEEPING, OTHER COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS, AND NEED FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This emergency rule and proposed rule makes no changes to reporting, recordkeeping, or other compliance requirements for Chemical Bulk Storage (CBS) facilities other than to place PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt on the list of hazardous substances in Section 597.3.

Facilities that store PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt in specified quantities and use certain tanks that make them subject to the registration requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 596 must include these tank systems in their facility registration with the Department, and pay a registration fee associated with the CBS program. Facilities regulated under 6 NYCRR Parts 596-599 most commonly store hazardous substances in stationary aboveground tank systems with a capacity greater than 185 gallons.

A facility that stores PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt that is subject to the CBS registration requirements, as explained above, must submit its registration application to the Department and pay the commensurate fee at the time it becomes subject to regulation. If the facility is already storing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt, and is subject to the registration requirements, the registration requirements became effective on April 25, 2016, the effective date of this emergency rule. If a facility plans to start storing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt, and is subject to the registration requirement, it must obtain a valid registration certificate prior to storing the material. A facility with existing storage of PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt is not required to comply with the handling and storage requirements for hazardous substances until April 25, 2018 (subdivision 598.1(h)). Since the Department anticipates that facilities that currently store PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt will phase out storage of the substance prior to April 25, 2018, they will not have substantive CBS compliance requirements regarding these chemicals beyond the registration requirement.

Existing Part 597 prohibits the release of a hazardous substance to the environment unless a release is authorized or is continuous and stable and has been reported to the Department (subdivision 597.4(a)). This rule in addition allows entities with fire-fighting foam to use the foam to fight fires on or before April 25, 2017 while they determine if the foam contains PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt. If the foam contains one of these hazardous substances, the foam must be disposed of in accordance with appropriate regulations by April 25, 2017. Replacement foam may not contain a hazardous substance at a concentration that would result in the release of more than the RQ (one pound) when used as a fire-fighting foam. However, if the foam is used to fight a fire and there is a release of a hazardous substance above the RQ stated in Part 597 for the substance

(one pound for these hazardous substances), the release must be reported to the Department's spill hotline (subdivision 597.4(b)).

Listing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt as hazardous substances results in sites contaminated with PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt being subject to the inactive hazardous waste disposal sites regulatory requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 375. In these cases, requirements for investigation and cleanup are established by Part 375 and by Department orders and agreements with regulated entities. Part 375 sets forth requirements for the investigation of site conditions to determine the nature and extent of environmental contamination, evaluate remedial alternatives, design and construct a remedy, complete the operation and maintenance activities required to achieve the remedial action objectives for the site, and maintain any institutional or engineering controls needed to maintain the effectiveness of the remedy. Remedial programs for a site tend to be complex, multi-phased, and take from a few to many years to complete.

No new or additional professional services are anticipated to be needed by facilities located in rural areas to comply with the emergency rule and proposed rule regarding the CBS requirements if they discontinue storing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt before the handling and storage requirements take effect on April 25, 2018. If facilities continue to store after April 25, 2018, when the storage and handling standards go into effect, facility owners/operators may need professional services to assist them in meeting the handling and storage requirements for hazardous substances.

If an owner/operator in a rural area becomes a remedial party subject to requirements to implement a remedial program under Part 375, it would likely require consulting and contractual services to assist in carrying out the remedial program. This could include professional engineers or qualified environmental professionals, as defined in Part 375, and contractual services needed to complete site investigation field work, analyses of environmental samples, or other specialized services.

3. COSTS

The Department does not anticipate a variation in compliance costs for different types of public and private entities in rural areas. Since PFOS-acid, PFOS-salt, and PFOS-related substances was restricted beginning in 2002 and, under the EPA's Stewardship Program addressing PFOA-related substances, eight companies voluntarily removed PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, and PFOA-related substances from new products by December 2015, and because the substantive CBS tank system requirements for handling and storing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt will not apply until April 25, 2018, the Department expects that the compliance costs for meeting the CBS requirements will be minimal. Hazardous substances regulated under Parts 596-599 are most commonly stored in stationary aboveground tank systems with a capacity greater than 185 gallons. Registration fees apply to each regulated tank and depend upon the capacity of each tank. The fees range from \$50 per tank for tanks with capacities less than 550 gallons to \$125 per tank for capacities greater than 1,100 gallons. If a facility discontinues storage by April 25, 2018, when the storage and handling standards go into effect, there will be no other substantive costs.

The prohibition of releases of hazardous substances is not expected to present significant compliance costs for public or private entities in rural areas with the possible exception of entities in possession of fire-fighting foams (Aqueous Film Forming Foam - AFFF) that contain PFOA-related or PFOS-related substances. This emergency rule and proposed rule adds a provision to allow facilities with fire-fighting foam the time necessary to determine if stored foam contains one or more of these substances. If the stored foam contains one of these substances, the facility would be required to arrange for the disposal of the foam by April 25, 2017. Replacement foam may not contain a hazardous substance. The older foams may be disposed of as solid waste in a permitted landfill since these substances do not meet the definition of Resource Conservation and Recovery wastes when disposed properly. The cost to replace the foam ranges from \$16 to \$32 per gallon, dependent on the amount and type of foam that is being stored. Prior to April 25, 2017, entities storing this foam will be allowed to use the foam, as needed, to fight fires to protect public safety. However, if the foam containing one or more of these hazardous substances is released to the environment in an amount that exceeds the RQ (one pound), the release must be reported to the spill hotline to allow the Department to determine if any remediation of the release is appropriate.

The costs of complying with the requirements of Part 375 to implement a remedial program where PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt are the primary contaminants, will vary widely as the costs depend upon many factors. These include the quantity released to the environment, the media contaminated (e.g., soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment, bedrock), the horizontal and vertical extent of contamination for each medium, the accessibility of the contamination, whether there are human or environmental receptors that must be protected while a remedial program is being undertaken, the difficulty of removing PFOA-acid,

PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid and PFOS-salt from the contaminated environmental media, the future anticipated use of the area of contamination, and other factors. Because of the wide variety of scenarios, it is not possible to meaningfully estimate the potential costs to persons managing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid and PFOS-salt in rural areas resulting from the listing of PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid and PFOS-salt as hazardous substances other than to note that remedial program costs for other hazardous substances can range from the thousands to millions of dollars on a case-by-case basis.

4. MINIMIZING ADVERSE IMPACT

The Department is adopting this emergency rule and proceeding with this proposed rule based upon the conclusion of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) that the combined weight of evidence from human and experimental animal studies indicates that prolonged exposure to significantly elevated levels of these compounds can affect health and, consequently, pose a threat to public health in New York State when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed. NYSDOH scientists have concluded that it is essential to list these chemicals as hazardous substances. See the Regulatory Impact Statement for additional information, including NYSDOH's letter requesting that these chemicals be added to the List of Hazardous Substances (Section 597.3).

This action does not lend itself to the mitigating measures listed in State Administrative Procedure Act section 202-bb(2), but there are existing requirements established in the regulations that help to minimize adverse impacts. For example, the CBS regulations allow a two-year period after a new chemical is added to the list of hazardous substances before the handling and storage requirements of Part 598 apply to facilities with existing storage of the chemical (subdivision 598.1(h)). In addition, the Department has determined through other rule making actions that the remaining regulatory compliance provisions, including the storage, handling, release prohibition, and disposal provisions, appropriately apply to persons managing hazardous substances in rural areas.

5. RURAL AREA PARTICIPATION

The Department is providing statewide outreach to persons who are subject to this emergency and proposed rule, including those in rural areas. The Department will ensure public notice and input by issuing public notices in the State Register, newspapers, and the Department's Environmental Notice Bulletin; holding a comment period of at least 45 days; and holding public hearings. Interested parties will have the opportunity to submit written comments and participate in the public hearings. The Department will also post relevant rule making documents on the Department's website.

6. INITIAL REVIEW OF THE RULE

The Department will conduct an initial review of the rule within three years of the promulgation of the final rule.

Job Impact Statement

1. NATURE OF IMPACT

Through the emergency rule and proposed rule, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department):

1. Adds perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA-acid, Chemical Abstracts Service No. 335-67-1), ammonium perfluorooctanoate (PFOA-salt, CAS No. 3825-26-1), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS-acid, CAS No. 1763-23-1), and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS-salt, CAS No. 2795-39-3) to the list of hazardous substances in 6 NYCRR Section 597.3 (Section 597.3);

2. Allows fire-fighting foam containing PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt to be used to fight fires (but not for training or any other purposes) on or before April 25, 2017, a use which would not otherwise be allowed under the regulation since the release of a hazardous substance is prohibited; and

3. Corrects the list of hazardous substances by providing units for reportable quantities (RQs).

The substantive effects of listing of these substances in Section 597.3 is to (1) make the handling and storage of PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt subject to the registration and other regulatory standards for Chemical Bulk Storage (CBS) facilities (6 NYCRR Parts 596-599); (2) prohibit the unauthorized release of PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt to the environment (subdivision 597.4(a)) and require that any releases above the RQ (one pound) be reported to the Department (subdivision 597.4(b)); and (3) make the investigation and remediation of releases of PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt to the environment subject to the Department's remedial program requirements (6 NYCRR Part 375).

The substantive effect of allowing fire-fighting foam to be used to fight fires (but not for training or any other purposes) on or before April 25, 2017 is to provide entities the time necessary to determine if stored foam contains one or more of these hazardous substances and replace any foams as necessary. If stored foam contains one of these substances, a facility would have to arrange for the proper disposal of the foam in accordance with all local, state, and federal requirements. Replacement foam may not

contain a hazardous substance at a concentration that would result in the release of more than the RQ (one pound) when used as a fire-fighting foam. The older foams may be disposed of as solid waste in a permitted landfill since these substances are not Resource Conservation and Recovery Act wastes when disposed properly.

The effect of correcting the tables listing hazardous substances is to include the units for RQs to remove uncertainty regarding when a release must be reported.

Under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has worked with industry to voluntarily phase out the use of PFOA-related substances by December 2015, and proposed a significant new use rule (SNUR) to limit the production and importation of PFOA-related substances in anticipation of the phase-out deadline (80 FR 2885; January 21, 2015). USEPA completed the SNUR to limit the production and importation of PFOS-related substances in 2002.

Since production of PFOA-related and PFOS-related substances has already been reportedly phased out or restricted, and alternative substances have been developed to take the place of these hazardous substances, the Department does not expect this rule to have a significant impact on jobs and employment either in terms of lost jobs or the creation of new jobs. Employment opportunities should remain the same or may increase somewhat due to remediation activities.

2. CATEGORIES AND NUMBERS AFFECTED

Since PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt are reportedly no longer being produced in the United States, the CBS regulations would only apply to stored PFOA-containing or PFOS-containing materials produced before the phase-out. Since replacement materials are already in place and the number of facilities storing PFOA or PFOS in quantities large enough to be subject to the CBS regulations is expected to be small, the number of jobs affected is expected to be small. Existing employees may be required to arrange for the disposal of older stocks of PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt containing materials, but this should not require the creation of new jobs or the loss of existing jobs.

Where PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt has previously been released to the environment in ways that make the resulting contamination subject to a 6 NYCRR Part 375 remedial program, a limited number of jobs may be created in order to complete the necessary investigations and remediation of the sites. Job categories would include, for example, drilling contractors and other heavy equipment operators, field investigation technicians, hydrogeologists, engineers, analytical chemists and technicians, and others with training and experience related to site remediation.

The number of sites that may become remedial sites because of the addition of PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, and PFOS-salt to Section 597.3 is unknown. The Department has placed one site on the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites (Registry) as a result of adding PFOA-acid to Section 597.3 (Site Registry ID No. 442046). The Department expects that other sites that used PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt in commercial or industrial processes may have PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt environmental contamination. Locations where PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt disposal occurred or where PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt were components of materials released to the environment may become remedial sites subject to the requirements of Part 375. Nationally, research by the United States Department of Defense (DoD) found that approximately 600 DoD sites are categorized as fire/crash/training areas and thus have the potential for contamination with perfluoroalkyl compounds (including PFOA-related and PFOS-related substances) due to historical use of aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) [Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP), FY 2014 Statement of Need (SON), Environmental Restoration (ER) Program Area, "In Situ Remediation of Perfluoroalkyl Contaminated Groundwater," SON Number: ERSON-14-02, October 25, 2012]. It is possible that the Department will list additional Registry sites. The work needed to investigate and remediate these sites may be accomplished by existing staff or new jobs may be added depending upon the number and complexity of sites.

3. REGIONS OF ADVERSE IMPACT

There are no regions of the State expected to be disproportionately impacted by the emergency rule and proposed rule as they apply statewide. There is no reason to expect that PFOA-acid, PFOA-salt, PFOS-acid, or PFOS-salt issues will be concentrated in one area over another to any significant degree.

4. MINIMIZING ADVERSE IMPACT

For the reasons described above, the emergency rule and proposed rule are not expected to have a significant adverse impact on jobs and employment.

5. SELF-EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The emergency rule and proposed rule are not expected to impact self-employment opportunities.

6. INITIAL REVIEW OF RULE

The Department will conduct an initial review of the rule within three years of the promulgation of the final rule.

**PROPOSED RULE MAKING
NO HEARING(S) SCHEDULED**

Deer and Bear Hunting

I.D. No. ENV-19-16-00001-P

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE State Administrative Procedure Act, NOTICE is hereby given of the following proposed rule:

Proposed Action: Amendment of sections 1.11, 1.18 and 1.31 of Title 6 NYCRR.

Statutory authority: Environmental Conservation Law, sections 11-0303, 11-0903 and 11-0907

Subject: Deer and Bear Hunting.

Purpose: To revise regulations governing deer hunting seasons, issuance and use of deer hunting tags, and hunting black bear.

Text of proposed rule: The table in 6 NYCRR Paragraph 1.11(d)(7) is amended as follows:

Season	Open WMUs for harvest of deer of either sex	Open WMUs for harvest of antlerless deer only	Open WMUs for harvest of antlered deer only
Early Muzzleloader	5A, 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6C, [6F,] 6G, 6H, [6J,] 6K		6A, 6F, 6J, 6N
Late Muzzleloader	5A, 5G, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6G, 6H		

Subparagraphs 1.11(d)(8) and (9) are repealed.

Subparagraphs 1.18(d)(2) and (3) are amended as follows:

(2) A bow/mz season either sex tag is valid for the taking of a deer of either sex, *in any special seasons and with any implement legal during that season* [and is valid only for the special implement season for which the hunter is licensed, except as specified in section 1.22 of this Part]. Bow/mz season either sex tags are not valid for use during the regular seasons, except in Westchester and Suffolk Counties or by junior archers hunting during regular seasons.

(3) A bow/mz season antlerless tag is valid for the taking of antlerless deer only, in any special season and with any [legal] implement *legal during that season* [, except as specified in section 1.22 of this Part]. Bow/mz season antlerless tags are not valid for use during the regular seasons, except in Westchester and Suffolk Counties.

A new subparagraph (5) is added to 1.31(b) to read as follows:

(5) *Youth bear season:*

Bear range	Season dates	Wildlife management unit (WMU)
Northern	3 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend	5A, 5C, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5J, 6A, 6C, 6F, 6G, 6H, 6J, 6K, and 6N
Southern	3 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend	3A, 3C, 3F, 3G, 3H, 3J, 3K, 3M, 3N, 3P, 3R, 3S, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4F, 4G, 4H, 4J, 4K, 4L, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, 4T, 4U, 4W, 4Y, 4Z, 5R, 5S, 5T, 6P, 6R, 6S, 7A, 7F, 7H, 7J, 7M, 7P, 7R, 7S, 8A, 8C, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8J, 8M, 8N, 8P, 8R, 8S, 8T, 8W, 8X, 8Y, 9A, 9F, 9G, 9H, 9J, 9K, 9M, 9N, 9P, 9R, 9S, 9T, 9W, 9X, and 9Y

(i) *Legal implements for youth bear season are the same as for regular bear season, except that black bear may only be taken by longbow in Westchester County (WMU 3S) and in WMUs 4J and 8C.*

(ii) *During the youth bear season, junior bowhunters, hunting pursuant to a junior bowhunting license, may only take bear by longbow. Junior hunters, hunting pursuant to a junior hunting license, may take bear with a firearm.*

(iii) *Any youth participating in the youth bear season shall be accompanied by an adult as required by Environmental Conservation Law section 11-0929. An adult who is accompanying a junior hunter or bowhunter during the youth bear season may not possess a firearm, longbow or crossbow and shall not be actively engaged in any other hunting.*

Subparagraph 1.31(c)(3) is amended as follows:

(3) It is unlawful for any person to take more than one bear during a license year (*youth*, regular, early, archery and muzzleloading seasons combined).

Text of proposed rule and any required statements and analyses may be obtained from: Jeremy Hurst, Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4754, (518) 402-8867, email: jeremy.hurst@dec.ny.gov

Data, views or arguments may be submitted to: Same as above.

Public comment will be received until: 45 days after publication of this notice.

This rule was not under consideration at the time this agency submitted its Regulatory Agenda for publication in the Register.

Regulatory Impact Statement

1. Statutory authority:

Section 11-0303 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) to develop and carry out programs that will maintain desirable species in ecological balance, and to observe sound management practices. This directive is to be met with regard to: ecological factors, the compatibility of production and harvest of wildlife with other land uses, the importance of wildlife for recreational purposes, public safety, and protection of private premises. Section 11-0903 provides the Department specific authority to set manner of taking, possession, open seasons and bag limits for the harvest of deer and bear. Section 11-0907 governs open seasons and bag limits for deer and bear.

2. Legislative objectives:

The legislative objective behind the statutory provisions listed above is to establish, or authorize the Department to establish by regulation, certain basic wildlife management tools, including the setting of open seasons and bag limits and restrictions on methods of take and possession. These tools are used by the Department to maintain desirable wildlife species in ecological balance, while observing sound management practices.

3. Needs and benefits:

This rule making addresses four issues: (1) it increases hunting opportunities for junior hunters by allowing them to take bear as well as deer during the youth firearms hunt over Columbus Day weekend. This is a component of the Department’s effort to combat long-term declines in hunter recruitment and retention by increasing hunter satisfaction and provide additional opportunities for young hunters; (2) it rescinds an antlerless-only requirement established in 2015 during portions of the bow and muzzleloader season in some Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). This requirement, in addition to generating dissatisfaction among some hunters, did not appear to accomplish the management objectives for which it was designed; (3) it prohibits antlerless deer harvest during the early muzzleloader season in WMUs 6F and 6J with the goal of reversing observed population declines in those units; and (4) it corrects language regarding use of deer tags to clarify that bow/mz either-sex and antlerless-only deer tags may both be used during either bow or muzzleloader seasons by hunters who purchased both bow and muzzleloader privileges. This has always been the Department’s intent and how the regulation has been applied, but ambiguity in the current wording can lead to confusion.

The change allowing junior hunters to take black bear during the Youth Firearms Deer Hunt is not expected to substantially alter bear harvest numbers, because opportunities for hunters to take bear are generally infrequent. For the same reason, it may provide a very meaningful experience for those junior hunters and their mentors who are fortunate enough to encounter a bear during the youth hunt.

The removal of the antlerless-only requirement for portions of the bow and muzzleloader seasons in WMUs 1C, 3M, 3S, 4J, 8A, 8C, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8N, 9A, and 9F represents a return to pre-2015 regulations in those units. Based on the 2015 deer harvest reports submitted by hunters, it appears that the antlerless-only rule promulgated in 2015 did not result in substantially increased antlerless harvest and was therefore not an effective tool for reducing deer populations in those WMUs as needed. The antlerless-only rule, which was unpopular with most hunters who provided input to the Department, was implemented as Phase 2 of a 3-phase process to increase antlerless harvest, as outlined in Strategy 2.2.6 of the Department’s Management Plan for White-tailed Deer in New York State, 2012-2016. An alternative approach must soon be implemented to decrease deer populations in those WMUs, and the management plan calls for creation of a special antlerless-only season for muzzleloader hunters as Phase 3, but details of this approach have not been ironed out. The Department