

REGULATIONS UNDER REVIEW WEBPAGE:

The Regulation adoption process includes drafting the proposed language, sending it out for public comment, Office of Administrative Law (OAL) review and approval, and finally filing by the Secretary of State. The process is laid out in the Administrative Procedures Act statutes.

After drafting proposed regulations, the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) issues a public notice. The public notice begins the public comment period, which lasts at least 45 days. OSPR may make changes to the proposal based on comments it receives.

OSPR will use this web link, the "Regulations Under Review" link, to post the Notice, the proposed language, and an "initial Statement of Reasons", which is an explanation of the proposal. OSPR may occasionally use this web link to post informal drafts of amended language, workshop notices, and other documents of interest relating to regulation changes and rulemaking.

Public comment is an important part of the process. Although there may be times when OSPR may not have a choice about adopting regulations (such as when the legislature passes a new law directing the agency to do so), OSPR takes all comments under consideration. Your input can make the regulations better.

How to comment effectively:

There is no required format to follow. The comments, however, do need to be in writing, addressed to the person listed in the Notice as the contact. Comments may be mailed, faxed, e-mailed, or hand delivered -- but they must arrive, or be post-marked, before the comment period ends. The date can be found in the Notice.

1. **Be Brief.** You don't want the reviewer to miss the point of your concern. Brevity assures that it won't be lost.
2. **Be Specific.** Make it clear what you want. It is more effective to say "I am concerned about how this will affect small marine fueling facilities because...", than "Don't do this."
3. **Know your subject.** Make sure you have read the proposal thoroughly so that your comments are clear and accurate. **Include the section numbers from the proposal in your comments, preferably in the order they appear.**
4. **Be Polite.** Reviewers are human, too. Even though you may be upset about a proposal, try to state your opinion objectively. Remember that agencies write regulations to help people comply with statutes. Communication is increased by extending the courtesies to agencies that you expect from them.