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**FEDERAL HEAVY HIGHWAY VEHICLE TAX FOR 2017-2018 REPORTING YEAR DUE BY AUGUST 31**

The Internal Revenue Service is reminding truck owners that August 31 is the deadline for filing heavy highway vehicle use tax returns (HHVU) for the year 2017-2018 tax year. HHVU returns are made on IRS [Form 2290](#) together with payment for the tax year that begins July 1, 2017, and ends June 30, 2018. Returns must be filed and tax payments made by August 31 for vehicles used on the road during July. For vehicles first used after July, the deadline is the last day of the month following the month of first use.

The highway use tax applies to highway motor vehicles with a taxable gross weight of 55,000 pounds or more. This generally includes trucks, truck tractors and buses. Ordinarily, vans, pickups and panel trucks are not taxable because they fall below the 55,000-pound threshold. The tax of up to \$550 per vehicle is based on weight, and a variety of special rules apply, explained in the instructions to Form 2290. Truck owners do not need to visit an IRS office to [e-file Form 2290](#). The form can be filed and tax paid online. Find an approved provider for Form 2290 on the [2290 e-file partner's page](#). Generally, e-filers receive their IRS-stamped Schedule 1 electronically minutes after filing. They can then print the Schedule 1 and provide it to their state department of motor vehicles, without visiting an IRS office.

For those who choose to visit, note that the agency's taxpayer assistance centers now operate on a "by-appointment" basis. See the [Taxpayer Assistance Center Office Locator](#) on IRS.gov for details. Though some taxpayers have the option of filing Form 2290 on paper, the IRS encourages all taxpayers to take advantage of the speed and convenience of filing this form [electronically](#) and paying any tax due electronically. Taxpayers reporting 25 or more taxed vehicles must e-file. Tax-suspended vehicles don't count toward the 25-or-more taxed vehicle threshold. Contact [Mark Morgan](#) for more information.

**TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER TO SPEED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT REVIEWS**

On Tuesday, President Trump signed an executive order "Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects." The order will make the environmental and permitting processes needed for major infrastructure projects more efficient by implementing a "One Federal Decision" policy under which the lead Federal agency will work with other relevant agencies to complete reviews and permitting decisions.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) will develop and implement an action plan to improve reviews Government-wide and will mediate disagreements between agencies so a decision isn't delayed due to bureaucratic disputes.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will develop a Government-wide modernization goal for a two year permitting process. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), it takes an average of seven years for a complex highway project to go through the entire review process. Further findings are that an average delay of six years costs the U.S. economy trillions.

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced Tuesday that DOT has already pinpointed two dozen policies and rules to examine to make the process more efficient.

These are welcome changes. Still the President has yet to release many details on his \$1 trillion in private and public investment in infrastructure plan. The administration continues to promise more details this fall.

National Economic Council director Gary Cohn reported this week that an infrastructure package will "come on the heels" of a tax overhaul. Further, Cohn said that Congress needs to get taxes done between now and Thanksgiving. Then, as soon as tax comes out of the House and goes to the Senate, "we'll put infrastructure in the House."

**PMAA MEETS WITH EPA TO DISCUSS PROPOSED FUELS PROGRAM REGULATORY REFORM**

PMAA met via conference call with the EPA this week to discuss a proposed streamlining and modernization of the gasoline, diesel fuel and other fuel regulations under 40 CFR 80. The streamlining and modernization effort will not incorporate substantive changes to the EPA's fuels program. Instead, the fuel regulations will continue to operate as they do today but in a simpler and less burdensome way. The EPA plans to take a holistic look at the entire set of fuels regulations in Part 80, to replace them with a single set of provisions to better reflect today's fuel marketplace, by:

- Deleting expired provisions.

- Consolidating and eliminating redundant compliance provisions.
- Removing unnecessary and out-of-date requirements.

According to the EPA, this effort will reduce burden and costs for stakeholders, increase fungibility and improve compliance assurance while maintaining environmental performance and fuel quality. One possible proposal on the table would simplify the RFG program by replacing summer VOC standards with a single 7.4 RVP cap and eliminate restrictions on comingling conventional gasoline and RFG in the winter to increase fungibility. The proposed rule could also potentially consolidate all independent fuel quality surveys into one nationwide survey. The change would reduce the required number of fuel samples to around 7,000 samples per year (5,000 gasoline; 2,000 diesel) down from the current 19,000 samples across all the programs.

While EPA's streamlining initiative would address most aspects of federal fuels regulations, many provisions will remain relatively unchanged including: the RFS program, national sulfur and benzene standards, applicable seasonal, geographic RVP standards, legacy standards required by the Clean Air Act (e.g. lead levels in gasoline), E15 misfuelling mitigation requirements and Tier 3 oxygenate producer and oxygenate blender mandates.

PMAA agreed to work with the EPA to ensure meaningful regulatory relief for petroleum marketers and to prevent the shift of upstream compliance burdens to downstream marketers during the simplification and modernization process. Contact [Mark Morgan](#) for more information.

### **COMMENT PERIOD FOR WOTUS REPEAL EXTENDED ONE MONTH**

Earlier this week, the EPA extended the public comment period for commenting on its efforts to repeal the Obama Administration's Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) regulation by one month. Interested parties now have until September 27 to submit comments.

The rule is important to petroleum marketers because it defines how far federal clean water regulations extend into local land use and permitting decisions including the construction of new gasoline stations and surface water runoff from parking and fueling areas. Many petroleum marketers with bulk storage could also be adversely affected by the revised 2015 definition from the Obama Administration.

In 2015, PMAA joined with a coalition representing a range of businesses, industries, and commercial interests to voice strong opposition to the Obama Administration's revised definition of the WOTUS proposed rule.

### **PMAA HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE FEDERAL BUDGET PROCESS**

As PMAA has previously reported, when Congress returns from recess after Labor Day, the two biggest immediate issues on the table will be the federal budget and the debt ceiling. Accordingly, this is an opportune time to take a quick look at the fundamentals of the federal budget process, as these will be important to know once things start moving in September. Please click [here](http://www.pmaa.org/weeklyreview/attachments/Federal_budget_process0817.pdf) (http://www.pmaa.org/weeklyreview/attachments/Federal\_budget\_process0817.pdf) to learn more.

### **BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW FOR THE 2018 WPMAEXPO**

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- Or call The Mirage directly at 800-627-6667 using WPM18A for the early bird rate.

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## **PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2018 WPMAEXPO**



Mark your calendars for February 20-22, 2018. Make plans now to attend the 2018 WPMAEXPO. It will be held once again at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS**

**August 21-23, 2017** – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Sandia Resort – Albuquerque, New Mexico

**August 30, 2017** – Idaho(IPM&CSA) PAC Golf Tournament, Huntsman Springs GC, Driggs, Idaho

**September 13-15, 2017** – Utah (UPMRA) Convention – Zermatt Resort – Midway, Utah

**October 5, 2017** – Hawaii (HPMA) Golf Tournament – The King Kamehameha GC, Wailuku, Hawaii

**February 20-22, 2018** – WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel– Las Vegas, Nevada

**June 5-7, 2018** – MPMCSA Convention & Expo – Fairmont, MT

**June 18-21, 2018** – Washington (WOMA) Convention – Suncadia Resort – Cle Elum, Washington

**August 8-10, 2018** – Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention – Coeur d’Alene Resort – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

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**Petro Pete: *“I’ve got a lot on plate right now. And I didn’t order ANY of it!”***

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