



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 20, 1973

DOT-R-04
Phone: (202) 426-4321

The Department of Transportation has initiated a rule making proceeding to include four contiguous counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the Central Time Zone.

At the present time all of Michigan is in the Eastern Time Zone.

The action was taken in response to petitions from the Boards of County Commissioners of Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson and Menominee counties who cited two reasons for seeking the change: closer commercial relations with neighboring communities of Wisconsin, which is in the Central Time Zone, and the recent decision of Michigan to observe advanced (daylight) time beginning in 1973.

Under the Uniform Time Act of 1966, the Secretary of Transportation has authority to modify the limits of time zones in regard to "the convenience of commerce and the existing junction points and division points of carriers engaged in interstate or foreign commerce."

All or part of the four counties are farther west than Chicago, which is in the Central Time Zone. Gogebic is as far west as St. Louis, which is also in the Central Time Zone.

The time change request has important business and social significance for residents of the four counties. Under Eastern advanced time, during the summer, areas that far west have daylight as late as 10:30 p.m. Under Central advanced time (which is the same time on the clock as Eastern non-advanced (standard time), there is daylight only as late as 9:30 p.m.

The Department intends that any change in the existing boundary which results from the adoption of this proposal shall take effect at 2:00 a.m., Sunday, April 29, 1973, the beginning of the advanced time period.

Before taking final action to adopt, deny, or modify the petition to redraw the time zone lines, the Department will consider all comments. Persons seeking to express their views are invited to address their comments

to the Docket Clerk, Office of the General Counsel, TGC, Department of Transportation, Washington, D. C. 20590, on or before April 6, 1973. Reference should be made to OST Docket No. 21; Notice No. 73-1.

All docketed comments will be available for public inspection and copying, both before and after the closing date for comment, in the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Regulation, Room 10100, Department of Transportation Headquarters (Nassif Building), 400 Seventh Street, S. W., Washington, D. C., between 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Comments are invited also as to whether more than just these four counties in the Upper Peninsula should be placed in the Central Time Zone. If comment supports it and their respective Boards of County Commissioners petition for such a change, additional counties contiguous to the four named may be placed in the Central Time Zone.

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