



**NR 04-1
Commission Issues Updated
Press Release on Royal
Olympia Cruises**

Washington, D.C. 20573

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On December 23, 2003, Commission News Release NR - 03-12 noted that the owners of the *Olympia Voyager* and the *Olympia Explorer* had filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. We indicated at that time that Royal Olympia Cruises Ltd (d/b/a Royal Olympia Cruises) had canceled the December 22, 2003 sailing of the *Olympia Explorer*, and that the December 18, 2003 sailing of the *Olympia Voyager* would terminate at St. Thomas before returning to Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Royal Olympia Cruises has now announced the cancellations of both the January 2, 2004 sailing of the *Olympia Voyager* from Fort Lauderdale to South American destinations and the January 5/6 round trip sailing of the *Olympia Explorer* from Los Angeles or San Francisco. We have not yet been advised the extent to which other future scheduled voyages will take place.

As provided by requirements of law and FMC regulation, a mechanism exists to reimburse passengers for U.S. voyages canceled or aborted. Royal Olympia has advised that individuals who paid by cash or check for cruise passage aboard those sailings specified above should soon receive reimbursement for those portions of their payments that covered ocean transportation. Also, we have been advised that these refunds should take place very soon, and that no actions on the parts of the passengers are necessary.

We have been advised that some individuals who paid by credit card may soon receive credits for those portions of their payments that covered ocean transportation. Individuals who made credit card charges, however, might wish to dispute those payments with their credit card issuer, especially those charges covering expenses beyond their ocean transportation. The reverse of your credit card statement should indicate the procedure for initiating disputes, and indicate an address for submission.

The FMC's program does not protect passengers embarking at non-U.S. ports. Also, the FMC's program does not protect portions of payments covering air travel, hotel expenses, land tours not included in the cruise fares, or other expenses not constituting ocean transportation. Consequently, reimbursements may be less than the total amount remitted.

The Commission will provide additional information as it becomes available.

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