

yardmaster. Due to the configuration and service demands, the yard cannot facilitate the placement of a derail at the 150-foot interval as prescribed in § 218.29. Additionally, LIRR believes that lining and locking the manual switches increases potential error of proper switch alignment, and is a safety concern for all employees working in the area. Therefore, LIRR requested that employees at these two facilities be allowed to place derails at a distance of 50-feet from the equipment. LIRR stated that they will post signage to reinforce the 5 mph speed restriction, as well as paint physical clearance lines denoting the 50-foot distance.

As a result of the comments received by FRA concerning this waiver petition, FRA has determined that a public hearing is necessary before a final decision is made on this petition. Accordingly, a public hearing is hereby set to begin at 9 a.m. on December 21, 2005, in Conference Room 820 at the Hunters Point Plaza, 47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, New York, 11101. Interested parties are invited to present oral statements at this hearing.

The hearing will be informal and will be conducted in accordance with FRA's Rules of Practice (49 CFR Part 211.25) by a representative designated by FRA. FRA's representative will make an opening statement outlining the scope of the hearing, as well as any additional procedures for the conduct of the hearing. The hearing will be a non-adversarial proceeding in which all interested parties will be given the opportunity to express their views regarding this waiver petition, without cross-examination. After all initial statements have been completed, those persons wishing to make brief rebuttal statements will be given an opportunity to do so in the same order in which initial statements were made.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 4, 2005.

**Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Implementation.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety

standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favour of relief.

#### Norfolk Southern Corporation

[Docket Number FRA-2005-22822]

The Norfolk Southern Corporation (NS) seek a permanent waiver of compliance with the Locomotive Safety Standards, 49 CFR 229.21(a), as it pertains to the recordkeeping requirement for locomotive daily inspection reports. If the request is granted, NS would file the required report electronically in a secure centralized data base that would be set up to track and store the records for the required ninety two days. The railroad states that each employee performing the inspections would be provided a unique electronic identification which will be utilized in place of the signature. All requirements, date, time, location, person conducting inspection, and any non-complying conditions will be reported electronically. NS utilizes an onboard record of daily inspection and will continue to do so if their request is granted.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2005-22822) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 4, 2005.

**Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 656 (Sub-No. 1)]

#### Investigation into the Practices of the National Classification Committee

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Extension of deadline for filing comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Board is extending, by 14 days, the deadline for filing the comments requested in its decision served on October 13, 2005, and published in the **Federal Register** on October 19, 2005, at 70 FR 60881-82.

**DATES:** The deadline for filing opening comments in this proceeding is extended to December 2, 2005. The deadline for filing a reply by the National Classification Committee is extended to December 22, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Any filing submitted in this proceeding must refer to STB Ex Parte No. 656 (Sub-No. 1) and must be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in the traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing should comply with the instructions found on the Board's <http://www.stb.dot.gov> Web site, at the "E-FILING" link. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 paper copies of the filing (and also an IBM-compatible floppy disk with any textual submission in any version of either Microsoft Word or WordPerfect) to: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. Because all comments will be posted to the Board's Web site, persons filing them with the Board need not serve them on other participants but must furnish a hard copy on request to any participant.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph H. Dettmar (202) 565-1609. (Federal Information Relay Service for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Additional information appears in the Board's decision granting this deadline extension and in the Board's prior decision served on October 13, 2005, and posted on the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, both under