

Projects To Impose and Use: Airport Improvement Program matching funds for: Equipment purchase AIP-35 (Snow Brooms, Skidsteer, Command Vehicle, Chemical Truck); Departure Area Security Improvements (AIP-36); Security Upgrades and Equipment Phase 2 (AIP-38); Rehabilitate Airport Main Entrance Road; Expand Terminal Building—Feasibility Study/Planning; Construct Taxiway Extensions C1, W2; Acquire Airside Vehicles & Equipment; Construct Delta-1 Ramp Expansion; Acquire Security Vehicle, and Rehabilitate West GA Area Paving. Full project funding for: Purchase of snow removal support vehicle (unit 4) and Purchase Land for Airport Expansion.

Impose-Only Project: Wildlife Hazard Management Plan Implementation, Phase 1.

Class or classes of air carriers which the public agency has requested not be required to collect PFCs: None.

Any person may inspect the application in person at the FAA office listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** and at the FAA regional Airports office located at: 222 W 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK.

In addition, any person may, upon request, inspect the application, notice and other documents germane to the application in person at Juneau International Airport, 1873 Shell Simmons Drive, Juneau, AK.

Issued in Anchorage, Alaska, on October 6, 2004.

Byron K. Huffman,

Manager, Airports Division, Alaskan Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2000-7257; Notice No. 33]

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC); Working Group Activity Update

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Announcement of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) Working Group Activities.

SUMMARY: The FRA is updating its announcement of RSAC's working group activities to reflect its current status. For additional details on completed activities see prior working group activity notices (68 FR 25677).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Butera, RSAC Coordinator,

FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Mailstop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6212 or Grady Cothen, Acting Associate Administrator for Safety, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Mailstop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice serves to update FRA's last announcement of working group activities and status reports of May 3, 2004, (69 FR 24219). The 24th full Committee meeting was held September 22, 2004.

Since its first meeting in April of 1996, the RSAC has accepted eighteen tasks. Status for each of the tasks is provided below:

Open Tasks

Task 96-4—Reviewing the appropriateness of the agency's current policy regarding the applicability of existing and proposed regulations to tourist, excursion, scenic, and historic railroads. This Task was accepted on April 2, 1996, and a Working Group was established. The Working Group monitored the steam locomotive regulations task. Planned future activities involve the review of other regulations for possible adaptation to the safety needs of tourist and historic railroads. Contact: Grady Cothen (202) 493-6302.

Task 97-1—Developing crashworthiness specifications to promote the integrity of the locomotive cab in accidents resulting from collisions. This Task was accepted on June 24, 1997. On April 14, 2004, RSAC reached consensus on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The NPRM is pending review within the Executive Branch. The NPRM is a new standard to increase the crashworthiness of conventional wide- and narrow-nose locomotives and codifies requirements for monocoque locomotives. Contact: Charles Bielitz (202) 493-6314.

Task 97-2—Evaluating the extent to which environmental, sanitary, and other working conditions in locomotive cabs affect the crew's health and the safe operation of locomotives, proposing standards where appropriate. This Task was accepted June 24, 1997.

(Sanitation) (Completed)

(Noise exposure) On June 27, 2003, the full RSAC gave consensus by ballot on the NPRM. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on June 23, 2004. The comment period ended September 21, 2004. The FRA is reviewing the comments.

(Cab Temperature) (Completed)

Note: Additional related topics such as vibration may be considered by the Working

Group in the future. Contact: Jeffrey Horn (202) 493-6283.

Task 97-3—Developing event recorder data survivability standards. This Task was accepted on June 24, 1997. On November 12, 2003, the RSAC gave consensus by ballot on the NPRM. The NPRM was published on June 30, 2004. A public hearing was held September 30, and the comment period was extended until October 11. Contact: Edward Pritchard (202) 493-6247.

Task 97-4 and *Task 97-5*—Defining Positive Train Control (PTC) functionalities, describing available technologies, evaluating costs and benefits of potential systems, and considering implementation opportunities and challenges, including demonstration and deployment.

Task 97-6—Revising various regulations to address the safety implications of processor-based signal and train control technologies, including communications-based operating systems. These three tasks were accepted on September 30, 1997, and assigned to a single Working Group.

(Report to the Administrator) A Data and Implementation Task Force, formed to address issues such as assessment of costs and benefits and technical readiness, completed a report on the future of PTC systems. The report was accepted as RSAC's Report to the Administrator at the September 8, 1999, meeting. The FRA enclosed the report with a letter to Congress signed May 17, 2000.

(Regulatory development) The Standards Task Force, formed to develop PTC standards, assisted in developing draft recommendations for performance-based standards for processor-based signal and train control systems. The NPRM was approved by consensus at the full RSAC meeting held on September 14, 2000. The NPRM was published in the **Federal Register** on August 10, 2001. A meeting of the Working Group was held December 4-6, 2001, in San Antonio, Texas, to formulate recommendations for resolution of issues raised in the public comments. Agreement was reached on most issues raised in the comments. A meeting was held May 14-15, 2002, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at which the Working Group approved creation of teams to further explore the "base case" issue. Briefing of the full RSAC on the "base case" issue was completed on May 29, 2002, and consultations continued within the working group. The full Working Group met October 22-23, 2002, and again March 4-6, 2003. Resolution of the remaining issues was considered by the Working Group

at the July 8–9, 2003, meeting. The Working Group achieved consensus on recommendations for resolution of a portion of the issues in the proceeding. The full Committee considered the Working Group recommendations by mail ballots scheduled for return on August 14, 2003; however, a majority of the members voting did not concur. FRA has proceeded with preparation of a final rule, which is currently being reviewed in the Executive Branch.

Task 00–1—Determining the need to amend regulations protecting persons who work on, under, or between rolling equipment and persons applying, removing or inspecting rear end marking devices (Blue Signal Protection). The Working Group held its first meeting on October 16–18, 2000, and six subsequent meetings have also been held. The Working Group significantly narrowed the issues, but did not reach full consensus on recommendations for regulatory action. The Administrator announced at the full RSAC meeting on December 2, 2003, that the task is withdrawn and the issue may be pursued at a later date. Contact: Doug Taylor (202) 493–6255.

Task 03–01—Passenger Safety. This task was accepted May 20, 2003, and a Working Group was established. Prior to embarking on substantive discussions of a specific task, the Working Group set forth in writing a specific description of the task. The Working Group will report any planned activity to the full Committee at each scheduled full RSAC meeting, including milestones for completion of projects and progress toward completion. At the first meeting held September 9–10, 2003, a consolidated list of issues was completed. At the second meeting held November 6–7, 2003, five task groups were established: crashworthiness/glazing; emergency preparedness; mechanical-general issues; mechanical-safety appliances; and track/vehicle interaction. The task groups met and reported on activities for Working Group consideration at the third meeting held May 11–12, 2004. The task groups continue to meet and will report on its activities at the fourth Working Group meeting scheduled for October 26–27, 2004.

Completed Tasks:

Task 96–1—(Completed) Revising the Freight Power Brake Regulations.

Task 96–2—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to the Track Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 213).

Task 96–3—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to the

Radio Standards and Procedures (49 CFR Part 220).

Task 96–5—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to Steam Locomotive Inspection Standards (49 CFR Part 230).

Task 96–6—(Completed) Reviewing and recommending revisions to miscellaneous aspects of the regulations addressing Locomotive Engineer Certification (49 CFR Part 240).

Task 96–7—(Completed) Developing Roadway Maintenance Machines (On-Track Equipment) Safety Standards.

Task 96–8—(Completed) This Planning Task evaluated the need for action responsive to recommendations contained in a report to Congress entitled, *Locomotive Crashworthiness & Working Conditions*.

Task 97–7—(Completed) Determining damages qualifying an event as a reportable train accident.

Task 01–1—(Completed) Developing conformity of FRA's regulations for accident/incident reporting (49 CFR Part 225) to revised regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor, and to make appropriate revisions to the *FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports* (Reporting Guide).

Please refer to the notice published in the **Federal Register** on March 11, 1996, (61 FR 9740) for more information about the RSAC.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 12, 2004.

Grady C. Cothen,

Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.

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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 favor of relief.

Union Pacific Railroad Company

[Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA–2004–18896]

The Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) seeks a waiver of compliance

with the Locomotive Safety Standards, 49 CFR 229.49(a)(1) and with the Brake System Safety Standards 49 CFR 232.103(o)(2), as they pertain to main reservoir safety valve setting and minimal differential between brake pipe and main reservoir air pressure on UPRR locomotives. The railroad states in their request that their locomotive safety valves are set at 150 (one hundred fifty) pounds-per-square-inch (psi) and the maximum working pressure of 125 psi (one hundred twenty-five) creating a 25 (twenty-five) psi differential. Locomotive safety standards (49 CFR 229.46(a)(1) requires that the main reservoir system of each locomotive shall be equipped with at least one safety valve that shall prevent an accumulation of pressure of more than 15 pounds per square inch above the maximum working air pressure and Brake System Safety Standards (49 CFR 232.103(o)(2)) requires minimum differential 15 psi between brake pipe and main reservoir air pressures, with brake valve in running position. UPRR adjusted its fleet of locomotives maximum working air pressure from 135 psi to 125 psi in the late 1970's as a method to conserve fuel. The 150 psi safety valve setting was maintained so that UPRR locomotives remained compatible when operated in consist with foreign locomotives. UPRR has operated their locomotives with the 125 psi maximum working air pressure for over twenty-five years and reports no adverse effect.

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 (FRA–2004–18896) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL–401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. 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