

VIN plate that can be read from outside the left windshield pillar, and a VIN reference label on the edge of the door or latch post nearest the driver.

Standard No. 118 Power Window Systems: rewiring of the power window system so that the window transport is inoperative when the ignition is switched off.

Standard No. 208 Occupant Crash Protection: installation of a seat belt warning buzzer. The petitioner states that the vehicles are equipped with an automatic restraint system consisting of driver's and passenger's side air bags and knee bolsters. The petitioner further states that the vehicles are equipped with Type 2 seat belts in the front and rear outboard designated seating positions, and with a Type 1 seat belt in the rear center designated seating position.

Standard No. 214 Side Impact Protection: installation of door beams.

Standard No. 301 Fuel System Integrity: installation of a rollover valve in the fuel tank vent line between the fuel tank and the evaporative emissions collection canister.

Additionally, the petitioner states that the bumpers on the non-U.S. certified 1993 Mercedes-Benz 600SEC and 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz S600 Coupe must be reinforced to comply with the Bumper Standard found in 49 CFR Part 581.

The petitioner further states that before the vehicle will be imported into the United States, its VIN will be inscribed on fourteen major car parts, and a theft prevention certification label will be affixed, in compliance with the Theft Prevention Standard in 49 CFR Part 541.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the petition described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5109, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. It is requested but not required that 10 copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be considered, and will be available for examination in the docket at the above address both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the Federal Register pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: July 19, 1996.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 96-18954 Filed 7-24-96; 8:45 am]

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Research and Special Programs Administration

[Notice No. 96-12]

Improving the Hazardous Materials Safety Program; Public Meeting Related to Regulatory Review and Customer Service

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting to be held in Sacramento, California to seek information from the public on regulatory reform and improved customer service for RSPA's hazardous materials safety program. This meeting is a continuation of the initial series of public outreach meetings held between April 19, 1995 and June 6, 1996. Interested persons are also reminded of a previously announced public meeting to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on September 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: California State Department of Social Services Auditorium (Room 102), 744 P Street, Sacramento, California.

DATES: September 26, 1996 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edmund J. Richards, Interagency Hazardous Materials Program Coordinator, (202) 366-0656; or Suezett Edwards, Training and Information Specialist, (202) 366-4900; Hazardous Materials Safety, RSPA, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 4, 1995, President Clinton issued a memorandum to heads of departments and agencies calling for a review of all agency regulations to eliminate or revise those regulations that are outdated or in need of reform. In addition, the President directed front line regulators to " * * * get out of Washington and create grassroots partnerships" with people affected by agency regulations.

In response to the President's directive, RSPA performed an extensive review of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) and associated procedural rules (49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 110). In April and July 1995, RSPA published notices in the Federal Register (60 FR 17049

and 60 FR 38888, respectively) that announced public meetings and requested comments on ways to improve the HMR and the kind and quality of services RSPA's customers expect. RSPA held 13 public meetings and received over 50 written comments in response to the Federal Register notices.

Based on its review of the HMR and on written and oral comments received from the public, RSPA has initiated eight separate rulemakings to eliminate or revise those regulations that have been identified as being outdated or in need of reform (Dockets HM-200, HM-207C, HM-207E, HM-216, HM-220A, HM-220B, HM-222A, HM-222B). Except for Docket HM-200, final rules have been issued as a result of these rulemakings. These actions addressed various subjects such as training frequency, 24-hour emergency response telephone numbers, incident reporting, shipping papers, marking, labeling, and placarding, elimination of over 100 sections of the HMR, restructuring of the Hazardous Materials Table and Hazardous Substance Table, restructuring of the cylinder specifications and cylinder requalification requirements, and rail and highway modal requirements. In addition, RSPA has initiated a two-year pilot ticketing program to streamline and simplify enforcement of certain violations which do not have a direct impact on the safe transportation of hazardous materials, such as failure to register, obtain renewed exemptions in a timely manner, retain training records, and file incident reports. In the international area, RSPA has incorporated requirements for the transportation of radioactive materials that are compatible with the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and continued to adopt regulations towards harmonization with the United Nations Recommendations and other international regulatory bodies.

Significant actions have also been taken to improve management practices and operations. In 1995, RSPA implemented a toll-free number for obtaining assistance on the HMR, reporting potential violations of the regulations, and obtaining training materials. In response to comments to improve responses to inquiries, RSPA has made a commitment to respond to phone calls before the end of the next business day, and to mail training materials and publications in a timely manner.

Conduct of the Meeting

The meeting will be informal and is intended to produce a dialogue between agency personnel and persons affected by the hazardous materials safety programs. The meeting officer may find it necessary to limit the time allocated each speaker to ensure that all participants have an opportunity to speak. Conversely, the meeting may conclude before the time scheduled if all persons wishing to participate have been heard.

Atlanta Meeting

As announced in the Federal Register (61 FR 24529) on May 15, 1996, the public meeting in Atlanta on September 12, 1996 will be held at the Omni Hotel, 100 CNN Center beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 18, 1996.

Alan I. Roberts,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

[FR Doc. 96-18833 Filed 7-24-96; 8:45 am]

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[Notice No. 96-13]

Temporary Closure of the Dockets Unit

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the temporary closure of RSPA's Dockets Unit, which contains hazardous materials and pipeline safety rulemaking and other dockets. Provision, however, is being made for public access to dockets in which comment periods are open or were recently closed and other dockets of current interest to the public. This closure is due to a cleaning project of the entire Nassif Building. RSPA expects its Dockets Unit to be closed for approximately three weeks starting August 12, 1996.

DATES: August 12, 1996 to September 3, 1996 (estimated).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For hazardous materials dockets, Ms. J. Suzanne Hedgepeth, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Exemptions and Approvals, (202) 366-4535; Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, RSPA, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590-0001. For pipeline safety dockets, Richard D. Hurliaux, Director, Office of Technology and Standards, (202) 366-4565; Office of Pipeline Safety, RSPA, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RSPA's Dockets Unit is located on the eighth floor of the Nassif Building, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC. In an effort to improve the indoor air quality in the Nassif Building, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the building's owner have initiated a major cleaning project. This project entails a thorough cleaning of the building on a floor-by-floor basis. During the cleaning of each floor, the floor will be closed to employees and visitors. It is estimated that the cleaning of each floor will take approximately three weeks. During this three-week period, the offices on each floor will be closed and the affected employees will be relocated to another building. Once the cleaning of a floor is complete, employees and visitors may return to that floor. Cleaning of the Nassif Building's eighth floor is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 12, 1996. As a result, RSPA's Dockets Unit is scheduled to be closed for approximately three weeks.

Due to the massive volume of documents in the Dockets Unit and the short time period involved, RSPA has decided not to relocate the entire Dockets Unit. RSPA recognizes that this closure will present an inconvenience to the public. Although the public will be prevented from viewing most dockets during the cleaning project on the eighth floor, the public can still submit written comments on a particular rulemaking or exemption application by mailing comments to the Dockets Unit, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room 8421, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001.

RSPA is taking steps to reduce the public inconvenience. It will provide public access to those rulemakings dockets in which the comment period will be open during, and those in which the comment will have closed just prior to, the closure of the Dockets Unit. Each of those dockets will be available for public review in an alternate location in the Nassif Building from August 12, 1996, until the Dockets Unit is reopened.

The hazardous materials dockets available to the public will be located in Room 5414A of the Nassif Building. These will include HM-181H (Performance Oriented Packaging Standards), HM-200 (Intrastate Transportation of Hazardous Materials), HM-223 (Applicability of the Hazardous Materials Regulations to Loading, Unloading and Storage), HM-224 (Temporary Prohibition of Oxygen Generators in Air Commerce) and any

new docket opened before the reopening of the Dockets Unit.

The pipeline safety dockets available to the public will be located in Room 2335 of the Nassif Building. These will include PS-94 (Qualification of Pipeline Personnel), PS-118 (Excess Flow Valve Performance Standard), PS-118A (Excess Flow Valves—Customer Notification), PS-121 (Pressure Testing of Older Hazardous Liquid Pipelines), PS-140(e) (Areas Unusually Sensitive to Environmental Damage), PS-144 (Risk-Based Alternatives to Pressure Testing Rule), P-96-8W (CNG Transmission; Petition for Waiver), and any new docket opened before the reopening of the Dockets Unit.

Requests for the availability of any other dockets during this period should immediately be made to the contact persons listed above.

The public may view these dockets between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

Issued in Washington, DC on July 19, 1996.

Alan I. Roberts,

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

[FR Doc. 96-18951 Filed 7-24-96; 8:45 am]

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Surface Transportation Board¹

[STB Finance Docket No. 32981]

The Northern Vermont Railroad Company Incorporated; Acquisition and Operation Exemption; Lines of Canadian Pacific Limited

The Northern Vermont Railroad Company Incorporated (NV), a noncarrier, has filed a notice of exemption to acquire from Canadian Pacific Limited, doing business as CP Rail System, approximately 86.41 miles of rail line located in Franklin, Orleans, Caledonia, and Orange Counties, VT, as follows: (1) A portion of the Newport Subdivision between the U.S.-Canadian border crossings at milepost 26.25 and milepost 32.63 (running through Richford VT); (2) a portion of the Newport Subdivision between the border crossing at milepost 43.32 and the end of the subdivision at Newport (milepost 58.4); (3) the Lyndonville Subdivision, extending between Newport (milepost 0.0) and Wells River,

¹ The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (ICCTA), which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred certain functions to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). This notice relates to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10901.