17. Develops and tracks SSA's major initiatives that relate to civil rights and equal opportunity and oversees their implementation.

18. Plans, directs and implements special programs for all minorities, women and employees with disabilities.

19. Develops, implements, monitors and evaluates special recruitment plans, programs and projects for targeted equal opportunity groups.

20. Develops, monitors and evaluates SSA compliance program(s) under civil rights statutes.

Section S7G.10   The Office of Training—(Organization)

Abolish:

C. The Administrative Staff (S7GC).

D. The Human Resources Planning Staff (S7GE).

E. The Center for Technology and Employee Development (S7GG).

F. The Center for Program Initiatives and Management Education (S7GH).

G. The Center for Educational Research and Evaluation (S7GJ).

Section S7G.20   The Office of Training—(Functions)

Abolish in their entirety:

C. The Administrative Staff (S7GC).

D. The Human Resources Planning Staff (S7GE).

E. The Center for Technology and Employee Development (S7GG).

F. The Center for Program Initiatives and Management Education (S7GH).

G. The Center for Educational Research and Evaluation (S7GJ).

Add:

B. The Immediate Office of the Director, Office of Training (OT) (S7G) provides the Director with staff assistance on the full range of his/her responsibilities.

1. The immediate office of the Director, OT, provides the Director with administrative and technical staff assistance on the full range of his/her responsibilities.

2. The Office of the Director's immediate administrative and technical staff plan direct, coordinate and administer the activities relative to developing and executing budget activities; represent OT on interagency human resource/training groups; interpret OPM training policies, purchase of training policies, and promulgate SSA training policy; maintain the Administration Instructions Manual System related to training policy; act as OT liaison with Personnel on such personnel matters as classification, position management, staffing and recruitment; plan, formulate and implement SSA training policies; and provide overall support and

coordination to the training function. Coordinate travel, training and conference attendance for office staff.

3. The Director's immediate staff is also responsible for the development and updating of SSA's Training Plan. This plan provides for the training of SSA employees and for providing the means for employee development beyond training.

4. Directs, designs, develops, implements, conducts and evaluates all SSA supervisory, managerial and executive-level training development activities.

5. Has Agencywide responsibility for common needs and general skills training, including related developmental activities for nonsupervisory personnel.

6. Directs, designs, develops and implements Agency-level career development programs from the highest executive levels (SES) to programs for nonmanagement employees.

7. Directs, designs, develops and implements training to support Agencywide computer software acquisitions, and administrative initiatives.

8. Conducts ongoing research to identify the best approaches to training in the areas of management, general and systems-support training and in the area of career development programs.

9. Conducts ongoing research to identify automated technologies (e.g., Interactive Video Teletraining, multi-media, computer-based training, internet and intranet, etc.) and instructional methodologies for application to training throughout SSA.

10. Directs, designs, develops and manages SSA's Interactive Video Teletraining System.

11. Monitors and evaluates Agency training and developmental activities to ensure desired results and effects through the SSA Training Evaluation System.

12. Manages SSA's National Training Center, Individualized Learning Center and the Training Information Center.

13. Provides office automation support and consultant services for all of OT.

14. Directs the design, development, implementation and evaluation of disability related programmatic/technical training to meet the needs of SSA direct-service employees and components Agencywide, as well as programmatic employees in the States' Disability Determination Services, including entry-level training. This includes support for all Agencywide disability reengineering initiatives.

15. Directs the design, development, implementation and evaluation of Title

II Retirement, Survivors and Auxiliary, and Medicare related programmatic/technical training to meet the needs of SSA direct-service employees and components Agencywide, including entry-level and advanced programs, programmatic systems training.

16. Directs the design, development, implementation and evaluation of Title XVI Supplemental Security Income related programmatic/technical training to meet the needs of SSA direct-service employees and components Agencywide, including entry-level and advanced programs, programmatic systems training.

17. Develops guidelines and procedures to determine technical/programmatic training needs in all areas of responsibility, and reviews technical training programs Agencywide.

18. Initiates independent studies and analyses to anticipate and identify new or changing programmatic or other training approaches in a dynamic organizational environment, and designs, develops and implements programs geared to new training delivery technologies and approaches.

Dated: October 20, 1997.

Paul D. Barnes,

Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. RSAC–96–1, Notice No. 7]

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 and new tasks accepted.

SUMMARY: FRA is updating its announcement of RSAC's working group activities, last published in early August of this year, to reflect additional working group activities, and new tasks presented and accepted during the RSACs September 30th meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vicky McCully, FRA, 400 7th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 632–3330, Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards Program Development, FRA 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 632–3309, or Lisa Levine,

Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 632–3189.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice serves to update FRA's last announcement of working group activities and status reports. See 62 FR 41992, August 4, 1997. The most recent full RSAC meeting was held September 30, 1997.

Since its first meeting in April of 1996, the RSAC has been presented with, and accepted, fourteen tasks. Detailed status and contact information for each of the tasks currently pending within the RSAC is provided below (new tasks appear in bold):

• (1) Reviewing and recommending revisions to the Track Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 213) (Task accepted April 2, 1996. Working Group established. Six meetings held. Consensus reached on recommended revisions. NPRM incorporating these recommendations published in the **Federal Register** on 7/3/97. ''Track Safety Standards; Miscellaneous Revisions,'' 62 FR 36138);

• (2) Reviewing and recommending revisions to the Radio Standards and Procedures (49 CFR Part 220) (Task accepted April 2, 1996. Working Group established. Ten (10) meetings held. Consensus reached on recommended revisions. NPRM incorporating these recommendations published in the **Federal Register** on 6/26/97. ''Railroad Communications; Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,'' 62 FR 34544);

• (3) Reviewing the appropriateness of the agency's current policy regarding the applicability of existing and proposed regulations to tourist, excursion, scenic, and historic railroads (Task accepted April 2, 1996. Working Group established. Two (2) meetings held.);

• (4) Reviewing and recommending revisions to Steam Locomotive Inspection standards (49 CFR Part 230) (Tasked to existing Tourist and Historic Working Group (THWG) on July 24, 1996. Five (5) Task Force meetings held. Working Group consensus reached on proposed rule text).;

• (5) Reviewing and recommending revisions to miscellaneous aspects of the regulations addressing Locomotive Engineer Certification (49 CFR Part 240) (Task accepted October 31, 1996. Working Group established. The working group has met 7 times. The working group decided during a recent meeting to create a task force to address medical issues; this group has met once).

• (6) Developing On-Track Equipment Safety Standards (new regulation) (This was tasked to the existing Track Standards Working Group Group on October 31, 1996. The Task Force has met 4 times since this task was assigned);

• (7) Developing Crashworthiness Specifications to promote the integrity of the locomotive cab in accidents resulting from collisions. (New regulation) (Task accepted June 24, 1997. A working group has been established. The group has met once.);

• (8) 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. (New regulation) (Task accepted June 24, 1997. A working group has been established and has met twice.)

• (9) Developing Event Recorder Data Survivability standards (New regulation (Task accepted June 24, 1997. A working group has been established, has met once, and is scheduled to meet again November 12, 1997);

• *(10) Facilitating Understanding of Current Positive Train Control (PTC) Technologies, Definitions, and Capabilities* (Task accepted September 30, 1997. A working group has been established. The initial meeting of the working group is scheduled for November 19, 27, 1997);

• *(11) Addressing any remaining issues regarding the feasibility of implementing fully integrated PTC systems* (Task accepted September 30, 1997. A working group has been established and will meet November 19, 1997);

• *(12) Discussing possible revisions to the Rules, Standards and Instructions Governing the Installation, Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Signal and Train Control Systems, Devices and Appliances (49 CFR Part 236) to facilitating the implementation of software based signal and operating systems* (Task accepted September 30, 1997. A working group has been established and will meet November 19, 1997);

• *(13) Reviewing the current concept of a reportable ''train accident'' (Rail Equipment Accident/Incident) and assessing whether it is an appropriate way to structure and administer detailed reporting requirements for collisions, derailments and similar events involving moving equipment on the rails (49 CFR Part 225)* (Task accepted September 30, 1997. A working group has been established to

begin the work required to execute this task).

If you have any questions about any of these working groups please refer to the following list of FRA contacts who can assist you with questions regarding any of the above-listed tasks:

(1) *Track Safety Standards Working Group*—Al McDowell (202) 632–3344 or Nancy Lewis (202) 632–3174;

(2) *Radio Communications Working Group*—Gene Cox (202) 632–3504 or Pattie Sun (202) 632–3183;

(3) *Tourist and Historic Working Group*—Grady Cothen (202) 632–3306 or Lisa Levine (202) 632–3189;

(4) *Steam Inspection Standards Task Force*—George Scerbo (202) 632–3363 or Lisa Levine (202) 632–3189;

(5) *Locomotive Engineer Certification Working Group*—John Conklin (202) 632–3372 or Alan Nagler (202) 632–3187;

(6) *On-Track Equipment Safety Standards Task Force*—Al McDowell (202) 632–3344 or Nancy Lewis (202) 632–3174;

(7) *Locomotive Crashworthiness Working Group*—Sean Mehrvazi (202) 632–3364 or Lisa Levine (202) 632–3189;

(8) *Locomotive Crew Working Conditions Working Group*—Brenda Hattery (202) 632–3366 or Christine Beyer (202) 632–3177; and

(9) *Event Recorder Data Survivability Working Group*—Ron Newman (202) 632–3365 or Tom Phemister (202) 632–3181.

(10) *Positive Train Control Technologies, Definitions, and Capabilities*—Grady Cothen (202) 632–3306 or Cynthia Walters (202) 632–3188.

(11) *Positive Train Control Implementation Issues*—Grady Cothen (202) 632–3306 or Cynthia Walters (202) 632–3188.

(12) *Standards for New Train Control Systems*—Grady Cothen (202) 632–3306 or Cynthia Walters (202) 632–3188; and

(13) *Definition of Reportable ''Train Accident''*—Robert Finkelstein (202) 632–3386 or Nancy Goldman (202) 632–3190.

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

Donald M. Itzkoff,
Deputy Administrator.
[FR Doc. 97–29188 Filed 11–4–97; 8:45 am]
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