

requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Union Pacific Railroad Company

(Docket Number FRA-2007-28340)

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) seeks a waiver of compliance from certain requirements of 49 CFR Part 232, *Brake System Safety Standards for Freight and Other Non-Passenger Trains and Equipment: End-of Train Devices*; and CFR Part 215, *Railroad Freight Car Safety Standards*. Specifically, UP seeks relief to permit trains received at the U.S./Mexico border at Brownsville, TX, from the Kansas City Southern de Mexico Railway (KCSM), to move from the interchange point without performing the regulatory tests and inspections specified in 49 CFR Part 215 and 49 CFR section 232.205(a)(1), at that location. UP proposes moving the trains from the border at Milepost 0.7 on the Brownsville Subdivision to the UP yard at Olmito, TX, a distance of 7.9 miles, where the required FRA inspections will be performed. According to UP, the railroad has been operating in this fashion since February 2004 under the authority of a letter from the Director of FRA's Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance.

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-2007-28340) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 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 DOT Central Docket Management Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, in Washington, DC. 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>.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-19478). The Statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 7, 2007.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. E7-15738 Filed 8-10-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Railroad Safety Program Plan

Although not required, notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has received a Railroad Safety Program Plan (RSPP) from the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 236, Subpart H. A brief summary of the RSPP, including the party submitting it and the requisite docket number, follows.

Union Pacific Railroad Company

(Docket Number FRA-2006-24002)

UP submitted RSPP Version 4.3b, which is its strategic safety planning document for the development and implementation of safety-critical processor-based signal and train control systems or active highway-rail grade crossing warning systems, subject to the provisions of 49 CFR section 234.275 or 49 CFR Part 236, Subpart H.

A previous version (4.3a) of the RSPP has been approved by FRA (Docket FRA-2006-24002). This new version of the RSPP does not require FRA approval, per 49 CFR Part 236, Subpart H. Interested parties are invited to review this and other associated documents at the following:

Web site: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Simple Search" on the DOT electronic docket site and enter Docket Number 24002.

U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.,

Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

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>.

You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78). The Statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC on August 7, 2007.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. E7-15779 Filed 8-10-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Availability of Environmental Management Systems Training and Assistance for State and Local Transit Agencies

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability of Environmental Management Systems training and assistance.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will sponsor training and assistance in Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for up to ten state and local transit agencies. EMS can play a valuable role in the establishment of sound business management practices that include concern for the environment. Adoption of environmental management systems has been shown to result in advantages in financing, insurance, marketing, regulatory compliance, and other areas of operations. FTA will sponsor assistance in the form of training workshops, on-site technical advice and consultation, including follow-up. Applications from transit agencies to participate in this training and assistance are solicited.

DATES: Letters of application to participate in this training and assistance program must be received by September 7, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Letters of application should be submitted to: Federal Transit Administration, Office of Planning and Environment, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room E45-130, Washington, DC 20590, Attention: Jim Barr, Fax: (202) 366-2478.

Applications may be hand delivered between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays; for confirmation of mail delivery, a stamped, self-addressed post card must be included.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Barr or Julie Atkins, Office of Planning and Environment, Federal Transit Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room E45-130, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-1568.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Environmental Management Systems

Environmental management systems are designed to develop a systematic management approach to the environmental concerns of an organization. Evidence suggests that adoption of environmental management systems results in advantages in financing, insurance, marketing, regulatory compliance, and other areas of operations. Perhaps the most recognized and widely employed environmental management system is ISO [International Organization for Standardization] 14001, a model for implementing environmental management systems used by tens of thousands of organizations in more than 100 countries.

In January 2006, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) concluded a successful Environmental Management Systems (EMS) training and technical assistance program based on ISO 14001 for ten public transit agencies. The results of the final audit and the responses of the participating transit agencies, documented in a report entitled, "Environmental Management Systems Training & Assistance Final Report" (January 2006), available online at http://www.fta.dot.gov/library/FTA_EMS/index.htm, were impressive. Nine of the ten participating transit agencies achieved an overall rating of 93 per cent or higher, and four of those agencies achieved an overall rating in excess of 97 per cent. Cost savings could not be easily quantified in the abbreviated implementation period, but one participating transit agency reported an annualized savings of \$66,000 in fuel and labor costs alone. So impressed were two of the participating transit agencies with ISO 14001 as a framework that inspires and channels the creative thinking of all their employees that they elected to become ISO certified.

FTA is now prepared to provide an opportunity for up to ten more public transit agencies to receive similar EMS training and assistance.

EMS Training and Assistance

FTA will provide assistance in the form of training workshops, on-site technical support visits and electronic materials and consultation. FTA is currently selecting a skilled contractor to carry out EMS training and assistance under a cooperative agreement. Training will be designed to help transit agencies develop and implement an environmental management system based on ISO 14001 which provides a structured process for the achievement of continual improvement, the rate and extent of which are determined by the organization in light of economic factors and other circumstances.

The EMS training program will include:

- EMS training and assistance for up to ten transit agency teams, consisting of three to four members each, over a two-year period;
- A curriculum designed specifically for transit agency implementation of an EMS with a possible emphasis on the implementation of an EMS for a transit capital program;
- A pre-workshop site evaluation visit to each agency by the contractor team;
- A training "tool-kit," including guidebooks and software, as necessary;
- Four three-day workshops at the site of the contractor's choosing which would include all transit teams; participants are responsible for travel and accommodation costs for these workshops;
- Two site visits and progress reviews by the contractor for each participant; and
- Monthly conference calls with the contractor, FTA, and all program participants.

At the conclusion of training, and following a period of implementation, FTA will assemble a final report that includes the participating transit agencies' case studies and an assessment of training results.

How To Apply for the Program

Interested transit agencies should submit a letter, signed by the head of the public transportation organization, that contains the following information:

- A brief description of the transit organization and its responsibilities;
- The name of a high-ranking transit agency management representative who will have the responsibility and the authority for ensuring that the EMS is developed based on the program provided above. The transit agency's representative should be available to travel and participate in workshops with other transit participants over the life of the project; and

- A clear assurance that senior management in the organization will provide the necessary visibility, staff time, and other resources necessary to successfully develop and implement the EMS through its implementation team. Ongoing top management support is the most critical factor for ensuring a successful and sustainable EMS.

Judging Applications

Once all applications are received, FTA will conduct follow-up interviews with each applicant to discuss the information contained in the letter of application in more detail and to obtain any other necessary information. FTA will give preference to agencies that are particularly interested in the implementation of an EMS for a transit capital program. FTA may consult with the contractor before final decisions are made.

FTA will use a number of criteria to select participants, including:

- Organizational commitment by transit agency leadership to EMS implementation;
- Geographical diversity;
- Previous environmental experiences; and
- Environmental challenges from operations and/or pending capital projects.

The first program workshop should occur in early 2008.

Issued in Washington, DC this 7th day of August 2007.

James S. Simpson,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. E7-15754 Filed 8-10-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of open season for enrollment in the VISA program.

Introduction

The VISA program was established pursuant to section 708 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (DPA), which provides for voluntary agreements for emergency preparedness programs. VISA was approved for a two year term on January 30, 1997, and published in the **Federal Register** on February 13, 1997, (62 FR 6837). Approval is currently extended through September 30, 2007, as published in the **Federal Register** on September 23, 2005 (70 FR 55947).