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Office of Personnel Management.

**Kay Coles James,**

*Director.*

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## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

### Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: Medically Underserved Areas for 2004

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel  
Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of Medically  
Underserved Areas for 2004.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has completed its annual determination of the States that qualify as Medically Underserved Areas under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program for calendar year 2004. This is necessary to comply with a provision of the FEHB law that mandates special consideration for enrollees of certain FEHB plans who receive covered health services in States with critical shortages of primary care physicians. Accordingly, for calendar year 2004, OPM's calculations show that the following states are Medically Underserved Areas under the FEHB Program: Alabama, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming. There is no change from the last year's list.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2004.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Ingrid Burford, 202-606-0004.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FEHB law (5 U.S.C. 8902(m)(2)) mandates special consideration for enrollees of certain FEHB plans who receive covered health services in States with critical shortages of primary care physicians. The FEHB law also requires that a State be designated as a Medically Underserved Area if 25 percent or more of the population lives in an area designated by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a primary medical

care manpower shortage area. Such States are designated as Medically Underserved Areas for purposes of the FEHB Program, and the law requires non-HMO FEHB plans to reimburse beneficiaries, subject to their contract terms, for covered services obtained from any licensed provider in these States.

FEHB regulations (5 CFR 890.701) require OPM to make an annual determination of the States that qualify as Medically Underserved Areas for the next calendar year by comparing the latest HHS State-by-State population counts on primary medical care manpower shortage areas with U.S. Census figures on State resident populations.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

**Kay Coles James,**

*Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket Number: MARAD 2003 16076]

### Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration,  
Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel SV NAMASTE.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized by Public Law 105-383 and Public Law 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket 2003-16076 at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in

accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR Part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before October 8, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD 2003-16076. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov/submit/>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Michael Hokana, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MAR-830 Room 7201, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-0760.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel SV NAMASTE is:

*Intended Use:* "Chartering".

*Geographic Region:* "East Coast U.S., West Coast U.S. (excluding Southeastern Alaska), Caribbean to Panama".

Dated: September 2, 2003.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

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