

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****[CGD08-00-008]****Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee Meeting****AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee (HOGANSAC) and its working committees will meet to discuss waterway improvements, aids to navigation, Houston/Galveston-area projects impacting safety on the Houston Ship Channel, and various other navigation safety matters in the Houston/Galveston area. All meetings will be open to the public.

DATES: The next meeting of HOGANSAC will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2000 from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 11 a.m. The meeting of the Committee's working groups will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2000 at 10 a.m. The meetings may adjourn early if all business is finished. Members of the public may present written or oral statements at either meeting.

ADDRESSES: The HOGANSAC meeting will be held in the conference room of the Houston Pilots' Office, 8150 South Loop East, Houston, TX. The working group meeting will be held at the Houston Yacht Club, 3620 Miramar, Seabrook, TX.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Captain Wayne Gusman, Executive Director of HOGANSAC, telephone (713) 671-5199; or Commander Peter Simons, Executive Secretary of HOGANSAC, telephone (713) 671-5164.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agendas of the Meetings*Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee (HOGANSAC)*

The tentative agenda includes the following:

- (1) Opening remarks by the Committee Sponsor (RADM Pluta) (or the Committee Sponsor's representative), Executive Director (CAPT Gusman) and Chairman (Tim Leitzell).
- (2) Swearing in of new Committee members
- (3) Approval of the January 28, 2000 minutes.
- (4) Status of dredging projects.
- (5) Barge lanes.

- (6) Facility mooring depths data collection.
- (7) Hurricane restoration plan.
- (8) Eighth Coast Guard District, Office of Aids to Navigation, presentation on aids to navigation reconfiguration schedule.
- (9) Seaman's Church Institute presentation on Houston simulator project.
- (10) New business.

Working Committee Meeting

The tentative agenda for the working committee meeting includes the following:

- (1) Presentation by each work group of its accomplishments and plans for the future.
- (2) Review and discuss the work completed by each work group.

Work groups were formed to examine the following issues: hurricane contingency plan, PORTS funding/TCOON operability, dredging and related issues, barge lanes, electronic navigation systems, port emergency communications committee/internet site, AtoN knockdowns, VTS radio frequency congestion.

All work groups may not necessarily report out at this session. Further, work group reports may not necessarily include discussions on all issues within the particular work group's area of responsibility.

All meetings are open to the public. Please note that the meetings may adjourn early if all business is finished. Members of the public may make oral presentations during either meeting.

Information on Services for the Handicapped

For information on facilities or services for the handicapped or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: April 8, 2000.

Paul J. Pluta,

*Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard,
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board****[STB Docket No. AB-398 (Sub-No. 6X)]****San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Kern County, CA**

San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company (SJVR) has filed a notice of exemption

under 49 CFR part 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon an approximately half mile segment of railroad on the Oil City Subdivision, between milepost 311.9 and milepost 312.5 at or near Maltha, in Kern County, CA.¹ The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 93308.²

SJVR has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic on the line can be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the 2-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.7 (environmental reports), 49 CFR 1105.8 (historic reports), 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line R. Co.—Abandonment—Goshen*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed. Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on May 24, 2000, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,³ formal expressions of intent to

¹ See *San Joaquin Valley Railroad Co.—Acquisition and Lease Exemption—Southern Pacific Transportation Company*, Finance Docket No. 31993 (Sub-No. 1) (ICC served Oct. 4, 1993), and *San Joaquin Valley Railroad Company—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Tulare Valley Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33723 (STB served Mar. 30, 1999).

² Under 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(2), the railroad must file a verified notice with the Board at least 50 days before the abandonment or discontinuance is to be consummated. SJVR, in its verified notice tendered for filing on March 22, 2000, indicated a proposed consummation date of May 15, 2000. Because applicant had failed to publish notice in the newspaper as required, the verified notice was not complete until April 4, 2000, when proof of newspaper publication was received at the Board and hence the notice was not deemed filed until then. Thus, the earliest possible consummation date is May 24, 2000. Applicant's representative has confirmed that the correct consummation date is on or after May 24, 2000.

³ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the