

December 16, 2014, the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 238, Passenger Equipment Safety Standards. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2008–0161.

The ARRC, a Class II railroad, petitioned FRA for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of 49 CFR part 238, as prescribed by 49 CFR 238.303(c), *Exterior calendar day inspection of passenger equipment*, and 238.313(d), *Class I brake test*, for one set of conventional passenger equipment. Specifically, this waiver request applies to the seasonal Hurricane Turn passenger train. This service is operated during the months of May through September, 4 days a week with one round trip per day, between Talkeetna, AK, Milepost (MP) 226, and Hurricane Gulch Bridge, AK, MP 284. The passenger equipment utilized for this train consists of two passenger coaches, one baggage car, and two locomotives (used in push/pull service). This train provides “flag stop” service to residents and visitors to an area that has no road access.

The ARRC maintains mechanical facilities in Fairbanks, AK, MP 470, and Anchorage, AK, MP 114, where qualified maintenance employees are headquartered. The equipment is stored overnight at Talkeetna during the work week, and may be moved to Anchorage during rest days for cleaning, supplies, and servicing. FRA requires a qualified maintenance person (QMP) to conduct the daily exterior inspection and the Class I initial terminal airbrake inspection on each day the equipment is used. This requires the ARRC to assign a QMP to Talkeetna, where there is not enough work to support a position, or have an employee travel 224 miles (round trip) each day from Anchorage.

The ARRC requests that a QMP be authorized to complete the required daily exterior and airbrake inspections at Talkeetna at least once a week, during those months when equipment is stationed there. The equipment may be moved to Anchorage, or a mechanical department road truck will travel to Talkeetna to have a QMP conduct the required inspections. Talkeetna is the only location that this relief is sought. Qualified persons, as defined in 49 CFR 238.5, *Definitions*, may perform the exterior calendar-day inspection and Class I brake test on all other days, provided they are trained, qualified, and designated to perform such functions in accordance with 49 CFR 238.109,

#### *Training, qualification, and designation program.*

The ARRC has safely operated this equipment under the conditions set by FRA’s Railroad Safety Board since 2009, under Docket Number FRA–2008–0161. Due to economic growth, the ARRC is looking to expand the seasonal Hurricane Turn passenger train service and equipment. The ARRC has petitioned FRA to modify the current waiver of compliance to increase the service from 4 to 5 days a week and to increase the passenger train consist from two passenger coaches to three passenger coaches.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

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 and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 202–493–2251.
- *Mail:* Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by May 14, 2015 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association,

business, labor union, etc.). In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy). See also <http://www.regulations.gov/#!privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 24, 2015.

**Ron Hynes,**

*Director, Office of Technical Oversight.*

[FR Doc. 2015–07100 Filed 3–27–15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–06–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **Advisory Committee on Women Veterans; Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2., that the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans will meet on May 19–21, 2015, in Room 930, at VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC, from 8:30 until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday and end at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding the needs of women Veterans with respect to health care, rehabilitation, compensation, outreach, and other programs and activities administered by VA designed to meet such needs. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary regarding such programs and activities.

The agenda will include updates from the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and Staff Offices, as well as updates on recommendations from the 2012 and 2014 Reports of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. Interested parties should provide written comments for review by the Committee to Ms. Shannon L. Middleton, VA, Center for Women Veterans (00W), 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, or email at [00W@mail.va.gov](mailto:00W@mail.va.gov), or fax to (202) 273–7092. Any member of the public who wishes to attend the meeting or wants additional information should contact Ms. Middleton at (202) 461–

6193. Because the meeting will be in a Government building, anyone attending must be prepared to show a valid photo I.D. Please allow 15 minutes before the meeting begins for this process.

Dated: March 25, 2015.

**Jelessa Burney,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2015-07179 Filed 3-27-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, that a meeting of the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee will be held on April 28-29, 2015, in Room 530 at VA, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC. On April 28, the session will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. On April 29, the session will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 12 noon. This meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice to the Secretary of VA and the Under Secretary for Health on all matters pertaining to geriatrics and gerontology. The Committee assesses the capability of VA health care facilities and programs to meet the medical, psychological, and social needs of older Veterans and evaluates VA programs designated as Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers.

The meeting will feature presentations and discussions on VA's geriatrics and extended care programs, aging research activities, updates on VA's employee staff working in the area of geriatrics (to include training, recruitment and retention approaches), Veterans Health Administration (VHA) strategic planning activities in geriatrics and extended care, recent VHA efforts regarding dementia and program advances in palliative care, and performance and oversight of VA Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers.

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. Interested parties should provide written comments for review by the Committee to Mrs. Marcia Holt-Delaney, Program Analyst, Geriatrics and Extended Care Services (10P4G), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, or via email at

[Marcia.Holt-Delaney@va.gov](mailto:Marcia.Holt-Delaney@va.gov).

Individuals who wish to attend the meeting should contact Mrs. Holt-Delaney at (202) 461-6769.

**Rebecca Schiller,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 that the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses will meet on April 20 and 21, 2015, in Washington, DC. The meeting will be held in room 230, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. on Monday, April 20, and from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21. All sessions will be open to the public, and for interested parties who cannot attend in person, there is a toll-free telephone number (800-767-1750; access code 56978#).

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on proposed research studies, research plans, and research strategies relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War in 1990-1991.

The Committee will review VA program activities related to Gulf War Veterans' illnesses, and updates on relevant scientific research published since the last Committee meeting. Presentations on April 20 will include updates on the VA Gulf War Research Program, followed by research presentations on a treatment for pain, neuroimaging in Gulf War Veterans, and drug trials in animal models. The Committee will devote April 21 to a discussion of Committee business and activities.

The meeting will include time reserved for public comments on both days in the afternoon. A sign-up sheet for 5-minute comments will be available at the meeting. Individuals who wish to address the Committee may submit a 1-2 page summary of their comments for inclusion in the official meeting record. Members of the public may also submit written statements for the Committee's review to Dr. Roberta White at [rwhite@bu.edu](mailto:rwhite@bu.edu).

Because the meeting is being held in a government building, a photo I.D. must be presented as part of the clearance process. Therefore, any person attending should allow an additional 15 minutes before the meeting begins to clear security. Any member of the public seeking additional information should contact Dr. White, Scientific Director, at (617) 638-4620 or Dr. Victor Kalasinsky, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 443-5682.

Dated: March 25, 2015.

**Rebecca Schiller,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2015-07169 Filed 3-27-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, that the annual meeting of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC) will be held April 22-24, 2015, at the Albuquerque Marriott, 2101 Louisiana Boulevard NE., Albuquerque, New Mexico. On April 22, the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 11:30 a.m. On April 23-24, 2015, the meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. on April 23, and end at 3:45 p.m. on April 24. The meeting is open to the public.

The Committee, composed of fifty-four national voluntary organizations, advises the Secretary, through the Under Secretary for Health, on the coordination and promotion of volunteer activities within VA facilities. The purposes of this meeting are: To provide for Committee review of volunteer policies and procedures; to accommodate full and open communications between organization representatives and the Voluntary Service Office and field staff; to provide educational opportunities geared towards improving volunteer programs with special emphasis on methods to recruit, retain, place, motivate, and recognize volunteers; and to provide Committee recommendations. The April 22 session will include a National Executive Committee Meeting, Health and Information Fair, and VAVS Representative and Deputy Representative training session. The April 23 business session will include welcoming remarks from local officials, and remarks by VA officials on new and ongoing VA initiatives. The recipients of