

PREP Guidelines to clarify or alter certain exercise parameters and standards.

Key Changes and Clarifications to PREP Guidelines

Several key changes have been made to the PREP Guidelines. The 2002 PREP Guidelines clarify the exercise parameters found in the 1994 version and do not increase or decrease the scope or scale of individual exercises or of the overall program. One exception is the potential frequency for government initiated unannounced exercises, which changes the number of exercises for U.S. EPA regulated facilities from four per year per planning area to no more than 10 percent of such facilities per year.

There also were some minor changes made to individual agency sections and the appendices, with the majority of changes being made to Section 2 "Guiding Principles."

Section 2 changes included the following:

- The subsection "Equipment Deployment Exercises" was revised to include greater specificity of equipment types to be deployed, along with a more detailed description of the regional Oil Spill Removal Organizations concept. The revision also included encouragement to exercise "systems" rather than individual pieces of equipment, and to use equipment deployment exercises to test the effectiveness of response planning strategies.

- The subsection "Spill Management Team Exercises" was revised to clarify criteria for allowing multiple planholders to take credit for a single spill management team exercise.

- The subsection "Area Exercises" was revised to clarify the scope of an exercise including minimum spill size, a requirement to include industry-funded equipment deployment, and to reiterate that the goal is to exercise the entire response community with the unified command framework.

- The section "Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises" was revised to clarify exercise expectations. Among the 2002 revisions are the expectations of satisfactory performance by planholders and to advise them of the change in the number of potential exercises in an EPA region (up to 10 percent of planholders).

Approach to Revision of PREP Guidelines

On June 29, 2000, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 40160) requesting comments on the 1994 PREP Guidelines and announcing a public workshop to address current concerns with the PREP Guidelines.

On August 29, 2000, in Washington, DC, the Coast Guard held a public workshop. Based on the comments, the National Schedule Coordination Committee (NSCC)—comprised of representatives from the Coast Guard, RSPA, U.S. EPA, and MMS—proposed changes to the 1994 PREP Guidelines.

On April 13, 2001, we published a notice of availability and request for comment in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 19282) seeking comments on the proposed changes to the PREP Guidelines.

On August 7, 2001, we published an extension of comment period notice in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 41293) extending the comment period due to a delay in the availability of the proposed changes to the PREP Guidelines.

On March 13, 2002, we published a notice of availability and request for comments in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 11368). This notice advised the public of the proposed final changes to the 2002 PREP Guidelines that have been revised based on a review of the comments made in response to the initial changes proposed in April 2001.

Availability of Document

The 2002 PREP Guidelines are available electronically in this docket or from the sources indicated in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Public Meeting

The USCG, in conjunction with RSPA, U.S. EPA, and MMS, will hold a public meeting to discuss the 2002 PREP Guidelines on the following date and at the following location: Galveston, Texas, November 7, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Moody Gardens Convention Center, One Hope Blvd., Galveston, Texas, 77554.

The meeting may conclude before the allotted time if all matters of discussion have been addressed.

Dated: October 16, 2002.

Paul J. Pluta,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

International Standards on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise interested persons that RSPA will conduct public meetings in preparation for and to report the results of the twenty-second session of the United Nation's Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCOE) to be held December 2-6, 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland.

DATES: November 20, 2002, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 6244-6248. December 18, 2002, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Room 6244-6248.

ADDRESSES: Both meetings will be held at DOT Headquarters, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Richard, International Standards Coordinator, or Duane Pfund, Assistant International Standards Coordinator, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-0656.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the first meeting will be to prepare for the twenty-second session of the UNSCOE and to discuss draft U.S. positions on UNSCOE proposals. The primary purpose of the second meeting will be to provide a briefing on the outcome of the UNSCOE session. Topics to be covered during the public meetings include (1) Requirements for the transport of solids in bulk containers including portable tanks, (2) Harmonized requirements for compressed gas cylinders, (3) Classification of individual substances, (4) Requirements for packagings used to transport hazardous materials including a U.S. proposal to require a repetitive shock test, (5) Requirements for infectious substances and clinical waste, (6) Security of dangerous goods in transport. The public is invited to attend without prior notification. Due to the heightened security measures participants are encouraged to arrive early to allow time for security checks necessary to obtain access to the building.

Documents

Copies of documents for the UNSCOE meeting and the meeting agenda may be obtained by downloading them from the United Nations Transport Division Web site at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc/c32002.html>. This site may also be accessed through RSPA's Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/instandards.htm>. RSPA's site provides additional information regarding the UNSCOE and related matters such as a

summary of decisions taken at the twenty-first session of the UNSCOE.

Frits Wybenga

Deputy Associate Administrator for
Hazardous Materials Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-584 (Sub-No. 1X)]

Canada Southern Railway Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Niagara County, NY

Canada Southern Railway Company (CSR) has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon a 0.15-mile line of railroad between milepost 0.0 and milepost 0.15, in the city of Niagara Falls, in Niagara County, NY. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 14305.

CSR has certified that: (1) No local traffic has moved over the line for at least 2 years; (2) any overhead traffic 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 November 21, 2002,¹ unless stayed pending reconsideration.

¹ While applicant initially indicated a proposed consummation date of November 15, 2002, because the verified notice was filed on October 2, 2002, consummation may not take place prior to November 21, 2002. Applicant's representative has subsequently confirmed that consummation cannot occur before November 21, 2002.

Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,² formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),³ and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by November 1, 2002. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by November 12, 2002, with: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to CSR's representative: Diane P. Gerth, Leonard, Street and Deinard Professional Association, 150 South Fifth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*.

CSR has filed an environmental report which addresses the abandonment's effects, if any, on the environment and historic resources. SEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by October 25, 2002. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to SEA (Room 500, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423) or by calling SEA, at (202) 565-1552. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.] Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), CSR shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned its line. If consummation has not been effected by CSR's filing of a notice of consummation by October 22, 2003, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.

² 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 (SEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Service Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

³ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,100. See 49 CFR 1002.2(f)(25).

Decided: October 15, 2002.

By the Board, Beryl Gordon, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Activity Under OMB Review; Submission of Audit Reports Part 248

AGENCY: Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of currently approved collections. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on August 9, 2002 (67 FR 51927).

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by November 21, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-14, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, Telephone Number (202) 366-4387, Fax Number (202) 366-3383 or e-mail bernard.stankus@bts.gov.

Comments: Comments are invited on whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of burden of the proposed information collections; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, in including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: BTS Desk Officer.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: