

local agencies to participate in refining the alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS and identifying any significant social, economic or environmental issues related to the alternatives. Scoping comments may be made at the scheduled scoping meeting or in writing. Scoping comments received during the development of the U.S. 285 Feasibility Study will be incorporated into the overall scoping comments for the EIS. The public will receive notices on locations and times of future public meetings through newspaper advertisements and individual correspondence. If you wish to be placed on the project mailing list, please contact Mr. Kim Patel at the address noted above.

All significant social, economic and environmental impacts of the alternatives carried forward for complete EIS analysis will be evaluated. Depending on the alternatives under study, environmental and social impacts to be evaluated will include safety and mobility impacts, impacts on cultural resources, noise impacts, natural resources, air quality, threatened and endangered species, wildlife resources, habitat connectivity, and parks and recreation resources.

In accordance with FHWA policy, the Draft EIS will be prepared with required engineering design studies necessary to complete the document. After its publication, the Draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comments and a public hearing will be held. A Final EIS will then be prepared, followed by a Record of Decision which will officially select a preferred alternative. Prior to the official selection of a preferred alternative in the Record of Decision, notification of the preference will be made in either the Draft or Final EIS.

The No-Action Alternative is expected to include minor safety improvements, (e.g., intersection improvements, shoulder widening, or climbing lanes) resurfacing, bridge repair, maintenance, stream or other environmental improvements, and the construction of a grade separated intersection at Wandcrest Drive. Through the course of the EIS, other independent utility projects may be identified if they are found to not conflict with the outcome of the EIS.

Issued on: June 13, 2002.

William C. Jones,

Division Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Gadsden Switching Service, Inc.

[Docket Number FRA-2002-12315]

The Gadsden Switching Service, Inc. of Scottsboro, Alabama has petitioned on behalf of the Everett Railroad Company for a waiver of compliance for two locomotives from the requirements of the Railroad Safety Glazing Standards, 49 CFR part 223. The two locomotives are operated by remote control and work primarily within the confines of the former Gulf States Steel facility on approximately three miles of track at Gadsden, Alabama. The Gadsden Switching Service, Inc. operation has no public grade crossings.

The two locomotives are presently equipped with ordinary commercial safety glass. On occasion, locomotives EV 913 and EV 921 move over yard tracks owned by CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern for pick up and delivery of railcars.

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 2002-12315) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), and 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice 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 (9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.) at the above facility. 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>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 8, 2002.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 02-17568 Filed 7-11-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Gulf & Ohio Railways

[Docket Number FRA-2002-11897]

The Gulf and Ohio Railways, parent company to the Knoxville and Holston River Railroad (KXHR), has petitioned for a permanent waiver of compliance from the requirements of the 49 CFR Federal Track Safety Standards Part 213.233, Track Inspections. This requirement prescribes a Gregorian calendar-based frequency for inspecting track to detect deviations from the standards. Railroads operating passenger trains are required to schedule a twice weekly track inspection with at least a one-day interval between inspections.

KXHR began revenue passenger service in early November of 1999. KXHR schedules passenger operations to begin the last week in March and end about mid-November of each year. A passenger train operates twice a day, on Saturdays and Sundays, between milepost 5.8 and milepost 10.8 over the River Front Extension (RFE) track. Freight trains operate daily, Monday through Friday, throughout the RFE's 11.6-miles. In 2001, a substantial number of passengers (more than 12,000) rode the excursion train. In the same year, the traffic density was estimated at 0.072 million gross tons. On the RFE district, KXHR Timetable Number 1 authorizes a maximum speed

of 15-miles per hour for passenger and 10-miles per hour for freight trains. The method of operation is Yard Limit Rule (General Code of Operating Rules). Since 1998, KXHR has operated trains with only one reportable incident, which was a derailment attributed to an equipment failure.

KXHR claims the passenger train operation is on consecutive days, requiring them to make two inspections between Monday and Friday, even though they do not operate the passenger train between inspections. KXHR requests relief from the second inspection during the week. In the event a special train is operated between Monday and Friday, KXHR states they will conduct the compulsory twice weekly inspections.

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-2002-11897) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. 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 (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) at the above facility. 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>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 8, 2002.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation

[Docket Number FRA-2002-12409]

The Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation (PATH) seeks a waiver of compliance from the requirements of [49 CFR 238.305(c)(10)] and [49 CFR 238.317(a)(1)] of the Passenger Equipment Safety Standards. Section 238.305(c)(10) requires all end doors and side doors to operate safely and as intended. A non-complying car may continue in passenger service pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, if, at least one operative and accessible door is available on each side of the car; and a notice is prominently displayed directly on the defective door indicating that the door is defective. Section 238.305(d) allows a passenger car found not to be in compliance with the requirements contained in paragraphs (c)(10) at the time of its interior calendar day mechanical inspection to remain in passenger service until the car's next interior calendar day mechanical inspection where it must be repaired or removed from passenger service.

PATH's request was for (MU) passenger cars equipped with two and three double leaf side doors on each side of the car. These cars are allowed to operate beyond the next interior calendar day inspection for up to eight days after the requirements of 238.305(d)(1), (2), and (3) are met. Section 238.305 (d) requires that: (1) A qualified person or a qualified maintenance person determines that the repairs necessary to bring the car into compliance cannot be performed at the time that the current day's interior mechanical inspection is conducted; (2) A qualified person or a qualified maintenance person determines that it is safe to move the equipment in passenger service; and (3) A record is maintained of the non-complying condition with the date and time that the condition was first discovered.

Section 238.317(a)(1) requires that whenever the control stand used to control the train is changed, a Class II brake test shall be performed prior to the train's departure from the terminal. PATH requests partial relief from this requirement. PATH does not want to perform this brake test when the train's terminal dwell time is less than five minutes because the conductor would not have time to perform the test at the rear of the train and walk forward to his operating position between the first and second car.

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-2002-12409) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room P1-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. 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 above facility. 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>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 8, 2002.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From the Requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 236

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 235 and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), the following railroads