

Minimum Aviation System Performance Standards (MASPS) for the High Frequency Data Link Operating in the Aeronautical Mobile (Route) Service (AMS(R)S) and approve the document

- Closing Plenary Session (Review Actions Items, Make Assignments, Other Business, Data, Place and Time of Next Meeting, Adjourn)

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairmen, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 19, 2001.

Janice L. Peters,

FAA Special Assistant, RTCA Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 01-29377 Filed 11-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Special Committee 159: Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Airborne Navigation Equipment Using Global Positioning System (GPS)

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of RTCA Special Committee 159 meeting.

SUMMARY: The FAA is issuing this notice to advise the public of a meeting of RTCA Special Committee 159: Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Airborne Navigation Equipment Using Global Positioning System (GPS).

DATES: The meeting will be held December 10-14, 2001, from 9 am to 4:30 pm (unless stated otherwise).

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at RTCA, Inc., 1828 L Street, NW, Suite 805, Washington, DC, 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: RTCA Secretariat, 1828 L Street, NW, Suite 805, Washington, DC, 20036; telephone (202) 833-9339; fax (202) 833-9434; web site <http://www.rtca.org>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for a Special Committee 159 meeting. **Note:** *specific working group*

sessions will be held December 10-13.

The agenda will include:

- December 14:
- Opening Plenary Session (Welcome and Introductory Remarks, Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting)
- Review Working group Progress and Identify Issues for Resolution
- Review of EUROCAE activities
- Closing plenary Session (Assignment/Review of Future Work, Other Business, Date and Place of Next Meeting)

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairmen, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 19, 2001.

Janice L. Peters,

FAA Special Assistant.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waivers 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, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Jackson International, Inc.

[Docket Number FRA-2001-10947]

Jackson International, Inc., (JAXON) has developed a hydraulically operated low input handbrake for use on freight rail cars. This new handbrake complies with the FRA regulations in all but two areas, namely: 231.27 (a)(1)(i) Each box or house car without roof hatches shall be equipped with an efficient vertical wheel handbrake which shall operate in harmony with the power brake thereon. 231.27 (a)(3)(i) The handbrake shall be located so that it can be safely operated

from horizontal end platform while car is in motion. The JAXON Hydraulic Low Input Handbrake is operated with a back-and-forth action hand pump lever and not a wheel. The JAXON Handbrake can be operated from the horizontal end platform or from a ladder. If a waiver is granted, Jackson International, Inc., would be able to market and sell this hydraulic handbrake as an alternative to the traditional geared handbrakes that are currently used in the rail industry.

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., Docket Number FRA-2001-10947) and must be submitted to the DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Communications received within 45 days from 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 practical. 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 November 15, 2001.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 01-29300 Filed 11-23-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-01-10867; Notice 1]

Transportation of Natural Gas by Pipeline Petition for Waiver; Williams Gas Pipelines-West

Williams Gas Pipelines-West (or "Williams") has petitioned the Research and Special Programs Administration

for a waiver from compliance with the regulation in 49 CFR 192.611(d) until June 30, 2003. This regulation requires pipeline operators to confirm or revise the maximum allowable operating pressure of certain gas transmission lines within 18 months after population growth changes the classification of the line.

The petition concerns a 1500-foot pipeline segment constructed in 1991 in Utah County, Utah, that changed from Class 2 to Class 3 due to development of a subdivision. The segment is part of the Kern River natural gas transmission line, which runs from Wyoming to the San Joaquin Valley near Bakersfield, California, where the gas is used in the generation of electricity.

The petition indicates the change in classification comes while Williams is undertaking an expansion project on its Kern River line, which it plans to complete in 2003, pending approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Rather than replace the 1500-foot segment with new pipe to satisfy § 192.611(d), the petition indicates Williams prefers to relocate the segment to a less populated right-of-way as part of the expansion project. The relocation alternative would result in a single impact to land owners and the environment during the construction.

Our Western Region pipeline office has investigated the 1500-foot pipeline segment. That office reports that Williams is meeting periodically with the developer of the subdivision to ensure the developer is aware of the pipeline and its associated risk. The Western Region office also says that to minimize threats to the segment, Williams is patrolling the segment weekly, observing all nearby excavations, and notifying land owners of the existence of the pipeline and what to do in the case of an emergency. In addition, the Western Region office has confirmed that the segment has not had any deficient corrosion control readings, there are no geologically unstable areas near the segment, and the segment has had no reported leaks or damage. In sum, based on the petition and the Western Region office's investigation, we believe Williams is taking all reasonable steps to maintain the integrity of the segment.

We are authorized to waive compliance with § 192.611(d) if the waiver is not inconsistent with pipeline safety and we state the reasons for granting the waiver (49 U.S.C. 60118(c)). In view of the good safety record and condition of the 1500-foot segment, we think compliance with the 18-month deadline under § 192.611(d) is

unnecessary for safety. We also support the goals of lower risk and less environmental disturbance that would result from relocating the segment as Williams plans. Therefore, we propose to waive compliance with § 192.611(d) until June 30, 2003.

According to the petition, June 30, 2003, should allow enough time to complete the expansion project. However, if there is an unforeseen delay in the project, we may extend the June 30, 2003, deadline up to an additional 6 months without further opportunity to comment by publishing a notice of such extension in the **Federal Register**.

We invite interested persons to comment on the proposed waiver by submitting such data, views, or arguments as they may desire. You may submit written comments by mailing or delivering an original and two copies to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays when the facility is closed. Or you may submit written comments electronically at the following web address: <http://dms.dot.gov>. To file written comments electronically, after logging onto <http://dms.dot.gov>, click on "Electronic Submission." You can also read comments and other material in the docket at the same Web address. All written comments should identify the docket and notice numbers stated in the heading of this notice. Anyone who wants confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard.

We will consider all comments received by December 26, 2001 before taking final action on the petition. Late filed comments will be considered so far as practicable. No public hearing is contemplated, but one may be held at a time and place set in a notice in the **Federal Register** if requested by an interested person desiring to comment at a public hearing and raising a genuine issue.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 60118(c); and 49 CFR 1.53.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 16, 2001.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 01-29259 Filed 11-23-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Finance Docket No. 34079]

San Jacinto Rail Limited— Construction Exemption—and the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Operation Exemption—Build-Out to the Bayport Loop Near Houston, Harris County, Texas

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Draft Scope of Study for the Environmental Impact Statement, Notice of Scoping Meetings, and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: On August 30, 2001, San Jacinto Rail Limited (San Jacinto) and The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) (collectively the Applicants) filed a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10502 for authority for construction by San Jacinto and operation by BNSF of a new rail line near Houston, Harris County, Texas. The project would involve approximately 12.8 miles of new rail line to serve the petro-chemical industries in the Bayport Industrial District (Bayport Loop). Because the construction and operation of this project has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts, the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is appropriate. SEA is holding public scoping meetings as part of the EIS process, as discussed in the Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS published by the Board on October 1, 2001. As part of the scoping process, SEA has developed a draft Scope of Study for the EIS.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: Scoping meetings will be held on:

January 14, 2002, 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm,
January 15, 2002, 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm.

The scoping meetings will be held at the: Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas.

The public scoping meetings will be informal meetings in a workshop format during which interested persons may ask questions about the proposal and the Board's environmental review process, and advise the Board's representative about potential environmental effects of the project. SEA has made available for public comment the draft scope contained in this notice. SEA will issue a final scope shortly after the close of the comment period. Written comments on the Scope