

(FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2 (1988) and 41 C.F.R. Part 101-6, section 101-6, 1015(a), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is giving notice of the establishment of an advisory committee to address railroad safety issues. This committee will provide recommendations and comments and will be known as the "Railroad Safety Advisory Committee" (RSAC).

**DATES:** On or about April 1, 1996, FRA will file the Committee's charter with the General Services Administration, the Library of Congress, and all Congressional committees with jurisdiction over FRA, as required by section 9(c) of FACA.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards Program Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, 202-366-0897, or Lisa Levine, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, 202-366-0621.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FRA has concluded that the continued use of *ad hoc* collaborative procedures for appropriate rulemakings is not the most effective means of accomplishing our goal of achieving a more consensual regulatory program. Instead, FRA believes that establishing an advisory committee to address railroad safety issues will provide the best opportunity for creating a consensual regulatory program in order to inform the Administrator in the conduct of her statutory responsibilities. The formation and use of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee are determined to be in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Secretary, and delegated to the Federal Railroad Administrator, by the federal railroad safety statutes (49 U.S.C. 20101-21311).

The Committee will provide a continuing forum for advice and recommendations on railroad safety issues. As all interested segments of the railroad industry will be represented on the Committee, all of FRA's customers will have a more direct role in shaping FRA's regulatory program. The Committee will allow management, labor, FRA and other interested parties cooperatively to address safety problems by identifying the best solutions based on agreed-upon facts, and, where regulation appears necessary, identify regulatory options to implement these solutions.

#### Committee Composition

The Administrator is the sponsor of the Committee and will designate the members of the Committee. The Administrator's representative (the Associate Administrator for Safety or that person's delegate) shall serve as Chairperson for the Committee. The Committee is authorized to constitute an Executive Committee and such subcommittees as the Administrator and the Committee find necessary to discharge its responsibilities.

The Committee will have sufficient diversity to ensure the requisite range of views and expertise necessary to discharge its responsibilities. The membership on the Committee will be fairly balanced with points of view representative of those interested in railroad issues, including those of railroad owners, manufacturers, labor groups, state government groups, and public interest associations. In order to foster harmonization of railroad safety standards at their inception, the agencies with regulatory responsibility for railroad safety in both Canada and Mexico will be extended Associate Memberships that will not include any voting rights.

#### Meetings and Recordkeeping

Timely notice of committee and subcommittee meetings will be published in the Federal Register at least 15 days before the meeting, except in exceptional circumstances, where the reasons for giving less than 15 days notice will be explained in the Federal Register notice. Each meeting of the Committee shall be open to the public, except as authorized by Section 10(d) of FACA, as implemented by 41 C.F.R. Part 101-6. Persons wishing to appear before the Committee will have to make prior arrangements to do so. Written materials may be submitted to the Committee at any time. Each meeting will be held at a reasonable time, in a place reasonably accessible to the public, and in a room large enough to accommodate the Committee members, staff, and interested members of the public.

Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, the records, reports, transcripts, minutes and other documents that are made available to, or prepared for or by, the Committee will be available for public inspection and copying at the Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20594. Fees will be charged for information furnished to the public in accordance with the fee schedule published in Part

7 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

Jolene M. Molitoris,  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 96-5505 Filed 3-8-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

#### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

##### International Harmonization of Safety Standards; Calendar of Meetings

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will continue its participation during this year in the international meetings to harmonize U.S. and foreign motor vehicle safety standards. These meetings will be conducted by the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP29) under the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and by the six Meetings of Experts (formerly called Groups of Rapporteurs) of WP29. The NHTSA currently represents the United States in all of the Meetings of Experts except those on Pollution and on Noise.

**DATES:** For a list of scheduled meetings, see the Supplementary Information section of this Notice. Inquiries or comments related to specific meetings should be made at least two weeks preceding that meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Francis J. Turpin, Office of International Harmonization (NOA-05), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590 (202-366-2114).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This calendar consists of those ECE meetings currently scheduled. It is published for information and planning purposes and the meeting dates and places are subject to change. NHTSA attendance at these meetings will be affected by agenda content, priorities and availability of travel funds.

March 11, 1996

Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work of WP29 + (AC.2), Sixtieth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.

March 12-15, 1996

Inland Transport Committee, Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP29), One Hundred-and-Eighth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.

April 1-4, 1996

Meeting of Experts on Lighting and Light-Signalling (GRE), Thirty-Sixth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
April 22–26, 1996

Meeting of Experts on General Safety Provisions (GRSG), Seventieth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
May 6–10, 1996

Meeting of Experts on Passive Safety (GRSP), Nineteenth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
June 11–14, 1996

Meeting of Experts on Pollution and Energy (GRPE), Thirty-Second Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
June 24, 1996

Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work of WP29 + (AC.2), Sixty-First Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
June 25–28, 1996

Inland Transport Committee, Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP29), One Hundred-and-Ninth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
September 16–18, 1996

Meeting of Experts on Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF), Fortieth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
September 19–20, 1996

Meeting of Experts on Noise, (GRB), Twenty-Fifth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
October 7–10, 1996

Meeting of Experts on General Safety Provisions (GRSG), Seventy-First Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
October 28–November 1, 1996

Meeting of Experts on Lighting and Light-Signalling (GRE), Thirty-Seventh Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
November 11, 1996

Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work of WP29 + (AC.2), Sixty-Second Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
November 12–15, 1996

Inland Transport Committee, Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP29), One Hundred-and-Tenth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
December 2–5, 1996

Meeting of Experts on Passive Safety (GRSP), Twentieth Session—Geneva, Switzerland. A listing of the meetings that were scheduled and have taken place is presented below:  
January 16–19, 1996

Meeting of Experts on Pollution and Energy (GRPE), Thirty-First Session—Geneva, Switzerland.  
February 5–9, 1996

Meeting of Experts on Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF), Thirty-Ninth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.

February 26–29, 1996  
Meeting of Experts on Noise, (GRB), Twenty-Fourth Session—Geneva, Switzerland.

Issued on: March 6, 1996.  
Francis J. Turpin,  
*Director, Office of International Harmonization.*  
[FR Doc. 96-5669 Filed 3-8-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

### Surface Transportation Board<sup>1</sup>

[Finance Docket No. 32506]

#### Ellis & Eastern Company—Acquisition, Operation, Joint Relocation Project, and Trackage Rights Exemptions—Brandon-Ellis, SD

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.  
ACTION: Notice of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** Under 49 U.S.C. 10505, the Board exempts from the prior approval requirements of (a) 49 U.S.C. 10901 the acquisition and operation by Ellis & Eastern Company of a 16.5-mile rail line between milepost 49.0, at or near Brandon, and milepost 65.5, at or near Ellis, in Minnehaha County, SD, and (b) 49 U.S.C. 11343-45, (i) the sale by Ellis & Eastern Company to Burlington Northern Railroad Company of a switching yard and the adjacent 2.0-mile line between mileposts 56.6 and 58.6, all in Sioux Falls, SD, and the grant back of trackage rights over that line, (ii) the grant of additional trackage rights by Burlington Northern Railroad Company to Ellis & Eastern Company over a 2.0-mile line between mileposts 54.6 and 56.6, also in Sioux Falls, and (iii) a joint relocation project involving the respective lines of Ellis & Eastern Company and Burlington Northern Railroad Company between mileposts 55.6 and 56.6, also in Sioux Falls. The exemptions for those transactions requiring prior approval under 49 U.S.C. 11343-45 are subject to appropriate labor protective conditions.

<sup>1</sup>The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803 (the Act), which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and transferred certain functions and proceedings to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). Section 204(b)(1) of the Act provides, in general, that proceedings pending before the ICC on the effective date of that legislation shall be decided under the law in effect prior to January 1, 1996, insofar as they involve functions retained by the Act. This notice relates to a proceeding that was pending with the ICC prior to January 1, 1996, and to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10901 and 49 U.S.C. 11323. Therefore, this notice applies the law in effect prior to the Act, and citations are to the former sections of the statute, unless otherwise indicated.

**DATES:** The exemption will be effective April 10, 1996. Petitions to stay must be filed by March 26, 1996 and petitions to reopen must be filed by April 5, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Finance Docket No. 32506, must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, Surface Transportation Board, 1201 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of all pleadings must be served on Mark H. Sidman, WEINER, BRODSKY, SIDMAN & KIDER, P.C., Suite 800, 1350 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 927-5268. [TDD for the hearing-impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from DC News & Data, Inc., Room 2229, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 289-4357/4359. [Assistance for the hearing-impaired is available through TDD services at (202) 927-5721.]

Decided: February 26, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-5696 Filed 3-8-96; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

### Surface Transportation Board<sup>1</sup>

[STB Finance Docket No. 32754]

#### Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad Corporation—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Line of Consolidated Rail Corporation

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10502, exempts from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10902 the acquisition and operation of an 18.49-mile line of railroad near Rochester, NY, by the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville

<sup>1</sup>The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-88, 109 Stat. 803, which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) and transferred certain functions and proceedings to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). This notice relates to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10902.