

of the public hearings and other docket material will be available for review in the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room at the address shown at the beginning of this notice. The docket file material will be filed under "EE-RM-96-200."

b. Written Comment Procedures

Interested persons are invited to participate in this proceeding by submitting written data, views or arguments with respect to the subjects set forth in this notice. Instructions for submitting written comments are set forth at the beginning of this notice and below.

Comments (8 copies) should be labeled both on the envelope and on the documents, "Fleet AFV Acquisition Requirements Rulemaking (Docket No. EE-RM-96-200)," and must be received by the date specified at the beginning of this notice. All comments and other relevant information received by the date specified at the beginning of this notice will be considered by DOE in the subsequent stages of the rulemaking process.

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information or data that is believed to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit one complete copy of the document and 3 copies, if possible, from which the information believed to be confidential has been deleted. The Department will make its own determination with regard to the confidential status of the information or data and treat it according to its determination.

c. Public Hearings

1. *Procedure for Submitting Requests to Speak.* The dates, times and places of the public hearings are indicated at the beginning of this notice. The Department invites any person who has an interest in these proceedings, or who is a representative of a group or class of persons having an interest, to make a request for an opportunity to make an oral presentation at the public hearings. Such requests should be labeled both on the letter and the envelope—"Fleet AFV Acquisition Requirements Rulemaking (Docket No. EE-RM-96-200)," should be sent to the address given at the beginning of this notice and must be received by the date specified. Alternatively, requests may be telephoned to the telephone number given. The person making the request should give a telephone number where he or she may be contacted. Persons selected to be heard will be notified by DOE as to the approximate time they will be speaking.

Each person selected to be heard is requested to submit 8 copies of his/her statement at the registration desk prior to the beginning of the hearing. In the event any person wishing to testify cannot meet this requirement, that person may make alternative arrangements by calling (202) 586-3012 in advance or by so indicating in the letter requesting to make an oral presentation.

2. *Conduct of Hearing.* The Department reserves the right to select the persons to be heard at the hearings, to schedule the respective presentations, and to establish the procedures governing the conduct of the hearings. The length of each presentation is limited to 10 minutes.

A DOE official will be designated to preside at the hearings. The hearings will not be judicial or evidentiary-type hearings, but will be conducted in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 533 and section 501 of the DOE Organization Act, 42 U.S.C. 7191. At the conclusion of all initial oral statements, each person who has made an oral statement will be given the opportunity to make a rebuttal or clarifying statement, subject to time limitations. Any further procedural rules regarding proper conduct of the hearings will be announced by the presiding official.

Transcripts of the hearings will be made and the entire record of this rulemaking, including the transcripts, will be retained by DOE and made available for inspection at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room as provided at the beginning of this notice. Any person may purchase a copy of the transcripts from the transcribing reporter.

Issued in Washington, DC on August 2, 1996.

Christine A. Ervin,

Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 96-20077 Filed 8-6-96; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Parts 109 and 110

[Notice 1996-15]

Rulemaking Petition: Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Notice of Availability

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Rulemaking Petition: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: On July 11, 1996, the Commission received a Petition for

Expedited Rulemaking from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. The petition urges the Commission to revise its regulations regarding independent expenditures by national party committees in Congressional races to conform to the Court's decision in *Colo. Repub. Fed. Camp. Comm. et al. v. F.E.C.* The petition is available for inspection in the Commission's Public Records Office. In addition, the Commission is publishing today a Notice of a technical amendment to conform its regulations to the Court's decision.

DATES: Statements in support of or in opposition to the petition must be filed on or before September 6, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments must be in writing and addressed to: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Susan E. Propper, Assistant General Counsel, or Ms. Teresa A. Hennessy, Attorney, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 29463, (202) 219-3690 or (800) 424-9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Petitioners request that the Commission amend its regulations at 11 CFR Part 109 and 110.7 to provide for independent expenditures by national committees of a political party in connection with Congressional races. As noted in the petition, the Supreme Court recently held that " * * * political parties are capable of making independent expenditures on behalf of their candidates for federal office and that such expenditures are not subject to the coordinated expenditure limits found in section 441a(d) of the [Federal] E[lection] C[ampaign] A[ct]." See *Colo. Repub. Fed. Camp. Comm. et al. v. F.E.C.*, 116 S.Ct. 2309, 2312-15 (1996). The petition adds that the Commission's regulations " * * * purport to forbid national political parties * * * from making independent expenditures" and that, as a result, these rules " * * * are insufficient to provide meaningful guidance to Petitioners * * *." The petition further requests that the Commission conduct a rulemaking on this issue before the next general election.

The Petition for Expedited Rulemaking is available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Records Office, 999 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Interested persons also may obtain a copy of the Petition within a few days

after the publication of this Notice by dialing the Commission's *Flashfax* service and following its instructions, at any time of the day and week. Statements in support of or in opposition to the Petition for Expedited Rulemaking must be submitted in writing by September 6, 1996.

Consideration of the merits of the petition will be deferred until the close of the comment period. If the Commission decides that the petition has merit it may begin a rulemaking proceeding. However, it is unlikely that the Commission could complete a rulemaking before the next election given the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 USC 553(b)(B)) and the legislative review provisions of the FECA (2 USC 438(d)). Moreover, the issues presented by the petition are complex and may be affected by the litigation in *Colo. Republ. Fed. Camp. Comm. et al.* which is ongoing. The Commission notes, however, that the Petitioners have submitted an Advisory Opinion Request on similar issues, AOR 1996-30.

Dated: August 2, 1996.

John Warren McGarry,

Vice Chairman, Federal Election Commission.

[FR Doc. 96-20101 Filed 8-06-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6715-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 95-NM-213-AD]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model Avro 146-RJ70A, -RJ85A, and -RJ100A Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: This document proposes the adoption of a new airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain British Aerospace Model Avro 146-RJ70A, -RJ85A, and -RJ100A airplanes. This proposal would require repetitive inspections for cracking of fuselage frame 29, and repair, if necessary. This proposal is prompted by results of fatigue testing, which revealed fatigue cracking in the web and inboard flange of frame 29. The actions specified by the proposed AD are intended to prevent reduced structural integrity of

the fuselage due to fatigue cracking in frame 29.

DATES: Comments must be received by September 16, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 95-NM-213-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056. Comments may be inspected at this location between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The service information referenced in the proposed rule may be obtained from British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Limited, Avro International Aerospace Division, Customer Support, Woodford Aerodrome, Woodford, Cheshire SK7 1QR, England. This information may be examined at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Backman, Aerospace Engineer, Standardization Branch, ANM-113, FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (206) 227-2797; fax (206) 227-1149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed rule by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Communications shall identify the Rules Docket number and be submitted in triplicate to the address specified above. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments, specified above, will be considered before taking action on the proposed rule. The proposals contained in this notice may be changed in light of the comments received.

Comments are specifically invited on the overall regulatory, economic, environmental, and energy aspects of the proposed rule. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. A report summarizing each FAA-public contact concerned with the substance of this proposal will be filed in the Rules Docket.

Commenters wishing the FAA to acknowledge receipt of their comments submitted in response to this notice must submit a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: "Comments to Docket Number 95-NM-213-AD." The

postcard will be date stamped and returned to the commenter.

Availability of NPRMs

Any person may obtain a copy of this NPRM by submitting a request to the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, ANM-103, Attention: Rules Docket No. 95-NM-213-AD, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

Discussion

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which is the airworthiness authority for the United Kingdom, recently notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on certain British Aerospace Model Avro 146-RJ70A, -RJ85A, and -RJ100A airplanes. The CAA advises that, during fatigue testing of the fuselage, cracking was discovered in the web and inboard flange of frame 29 between stringers 12 and 18 on the left and right side of the fuselage. The cracking emanated from the bolt holes in these areas. Such fatigue cracking, if not detected and corrected in a timely manner, could result in reduced structural integrity of the fuselage of the airplane.

Explanation of Relevant Service Information

The manufacturer has issued Avro International Aerospace Inspection Service Bulletin S.B. 53-131, dated March 29, 1995, which describes procedures for repetitive visual inspections of frame 29 between stringers 12 and 18 on the left and right side of the fuselage. The service bulletin also references procedures for accomplishing a modification at each affected bolt position, which would eliminate the need for the repetitive inspections when the modification is installed at the time specified in the service bulletin. (Specific procedures for this modification are described in Repair Instruction Leaflet HC536H9168.) The CAA classified this service bulletin as mandatory in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in the United Kingdom.

FAA's Conclusions

These airplane models are manufactured in the United Kingdom and are type certificated for operation in the United States under the provisions of section 21.29 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.29) and the applicable bilateral airworthiness agreement. Pursuant to this bilateral airworthiness agreement, the CAA has kept the FAA informed of the situation described above. The FAA has examined the findings of the CAA, reviewed all available information, and