

committee meetings and agendas through further notices in the **Federal Register**. Unless announced otherwise, meetings are open to the public.

#### E. Committee Procedures

Under the general guidance and direction of the facilitator, and subject to any applicable legal requirements, the members will establish the detailed procedures for committee meetings that they consider most appropriate.

#### F. Defining Consensus

The goal of the negotiating process is consensus. Under the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, consensus means that each interest concurs in the result, unless the term is defined otherwise by the committee. We expect the participants to fashion their working definition of this term.

#### G. Failure of Advisory Committee To Reach Consensus

If the committee is unable to reach consensus, the OIG will proceed to develop an interim final rule. Parties to the negotiation may withdraw at any time. If this happens, the remaining committee members and the OIG will evaluate whether the committee should continue.

#### H. Record of Meetings

In accordance with FACA's requirements, minutes of all committee meetings will be kept. The minutes will be placed in the public rulemaking record.

#### I. Other Information

In accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12866, this notice was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Dated: April 11, 1997.

**June Gibbs Brown**,  
Inspector General.

Approved: May 19, 1997.

**Donna E. Shalala**,  
Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

#### 49 CFR Part 1039

[STB Ex Parte No. 561]

#### Rail General Exemption Authority— Nonferrous Recyclables

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment due date.

**SUMMARY:** By decision served May 5, 1997, the Surface Transportation Board issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) proposing, *inter alia*, a total exemption from regulation for 29 nonferrous recyclable commodities. The NPR was not published in the **Federal Register** until May 16, 1997 (62 FR 27003) although parties in an earlier proceeding (Ex Parte No. 346 (Sub-No. 36)) were served with a copy of the May 5, 1997 NPR. The May 16 **Federal Register** publication provided for the filing of a notice of intent to participate on May 26, 1997, with comments due June 30, 1997, and reply comments due July 15, 1997. The Association of American Railroads (AAR), in a request dated May 8, 1997, and supplemented on May 14, 1997, has requested an extension of time to July 15, 1997, to file comments and to August 5, 1997, to file reply comments. AAR requests the extension to allow it and its members sufficient time to compile current information and to consult and coordinate a response among themselves and shippers of nonferrous recyclable commodities. AAR contacted three parties who had filed opposition comments in the earlier proceeding and reports that two of those parties do not object to the extension, and the third took no position. The extension request will be granted. Moreover, because the due date of May 26, 1997 for notice of intent is a federal holiday, that due date will be extended to May 27, 1997.

**DATES:** Persons interested in participating in this proceeding as a party of record by filing and receiving written comments must file a notice of intent to participate by May 27, 1997. Comments must be submitted by July 15, 1997, and reply comments are due August 5, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send an original plus 10 copies of notices of intent to participate and pleadings referring to STB Ex Parte No. 561 to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beryl Gordon, (202) 565-1600. (TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.)

Decided: May 19, 1997.

By the Board, Vernon A. Williams,  
Secretary.

**Vernon A. Williams**,  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-13631 Filed 5-22-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Parts 227 and 425

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Parts 17 and 425

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Reopening of Comment Period on Proposed Threatened Status for a Distinct Population Segment of Anadromous Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) in Seven Rivers

**AGENCIES:** National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce; and Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Reopening of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The State of Maine formally submitted the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan (Plan) to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (collectively the Services) on March 5, 1997, in response to the Services' proposal to list Atlantic salmon in seven Maine rivers as threatened (60 FR 50530, September 29, 1995). The Services have determined that the Plan is significant new information relating to the proposed rule that merits review and consideration under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Services also note that information and data collected since the publication of the proposed rule is also available for review and has become part of the record for the Services' evaluation of the proposed listing. This information includes adult returns, redd counts, fry stocking, habitat assessments, commercial fishing agreements and management measures, and marine habitat assessment. Stocking, return and habitat data are provided in the Annual Report of the U.S. Atlantic Salmon Assessment Committee which is prepared annually for the U.S. Section to North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization. The annual field activity report prepared by the Maine Atlantic Salmon Authority and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also documents management activities for the seven river populations. In order to ensure that the public has an opportunity to comment on all phases of this proposed listing, the Services are making the Plan available for review at selected locations throughout New England and the Washington DC area