

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:  
Kennebec County, ME**

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed project in the City of Augusta, Kennebec County, Maine.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jim Linker, Manager of Right of Way and Environmental Programs, Room 614, Muskie Federal Building, Augusta, Maine 04330, Telephone (207) 622-8355 ext. 23; or Ray Faucher, Project Manager, Maine Department of Transportation, Design Division, State House Station 16, Child Street, Augusta, Maine 04333, Telephone (207) 287-3171.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the Maine Department of Transportation, will prepare an EIS on a proposal to improve highway connections across the Kennebec River to National Highway System and other State highways on the east and west sides of Augusta. This proposal is in response to a need to improve traffic congestion, improve traffic service and access, and to provide for projected traffic demands in a manner consistent with the City's Growth Management Plan.

The EIS will examine the feasibility and potential impacts of the following alternatives:

- Taking no action;
  - Improving the existing highway corridor through Augusta from routes 201, 202, 3, 9, 17, 27, 100 and 105 on the east, to I-95 and routes 201, 202, 8, 11, 27, 100, and 104 on the west side of the city.
  - Construction on new alignment in a corridor in the northern portion of Augusta, connecting major transportation routes on the east and west of the Kennebec River. The corridor is approximately 5 kilometers in length.
  - Construction on new alignment in a corridor in the southern portion of Augusta, connecting major transportation routes on the east and west of the Kennebec River. The corridor is approximately 5 kilometers in length.
- Coordination and scoping has been initiated with the City of Augusta, and appropriate Federal, State and local

agencies. A public scoping meeting will be held on July 17, 1997, 7:00 p.m. at the Augusta City Hall. Other public meetings are anticipated during development of the EIS. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment and a public hearing will be held following publication of the draft. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearings.

To ensure that the full range of issues relating to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions should be directed to FHWA or MDOT at the addresses provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

**Authority:** 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: July 2, 1997.

**Paul L. Lariviere,**

*Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Augusta, Maine.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-22-M**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Maritime Administration**

[Docket MSP-007/Docket S-946]

**American President Lines, LTD.;**  
**Application for Approvals for**  
**Proposed Transfer of Operating-**  
**Differential Subsidy Agreement (MA/**  
**MSB-417) and Maritime Security**  
**Program Operating Agreements (MA/**  
**MSP-1 Through MA/MSP-9)**

American President Lines, Ltd. (APL) by letter dated June 25, 1997, applied to the Maritime Administration (MARAD), for all approval, findings, and determinations necessary in order to transfer APL's Operating-Differential Subsidy Agreement, Contract MA/MSB-417 (ODSA) and notice of APL's planned transfer of Maritime Security Program Operating Agreements MA/MSP-1 through MA/MSP-9 (MSP) to American Ship Management, LLC (ASM). The proposed transfer would be effectuated immediately prior to the effective time of the proposed merger of APL Limited (Limited) and Neptune U.S.A., Inc. pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of April 13, 1997 among Limited, Neptune Orient Lines, Ltd. and Neptune U.S.A., Inc. (Merger).

More particularly, the approval, findings and determinations requested include those that may be deemed necessary under statute, regulation or contract in order:

1. For APL (or the corporate affiliate(s) of APL holding title) to transfer title to all vessels currently operated under the ODSA and to be operated under MSP Operating Agreements to an Owner Trustee;
2. For APL to transfer the ODSA and MSP to ASM;
3. For the owner trustee to bareboat charter the ODS Vessels to ASM for operation by ASM under the ODSA for the remaining term of the ODSA, and to bareboat charter the MSP vessels to ASM for the term of the MSP Operating Agreements; and
4. For ASM to time charter the ODS Vessels to APL for the remaining term of the ODSA and to time charter the MSP vessels to APL for the term of the MSP Operating Agreements.

APL considers it important to make clear that although effectuation of the proposed transfer of the ODSA is conditioned on transfer of APL's MSP Operating Agreements to ASM—the proposed transfer of the MSP Operating Agreements *is not* conditioned on grant of the instant application to transfer the ODSA. Accordingly, in the event that MARAD should not grant the instant application to transfer the ODSA, APL alternatively requests that MARAD expressly consent to APL's termination of the ODSA, pursuant to Article II-25 thereof, immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger.

ASM by letter dated June 30, 1997, filed an application in support of APL's June 25, 1997 application with respect to the transfer of APL's ODSA and MSP Operating Agreements to ASM. It is ASM's belief that ASM's application, which, in part, incorporates by reference certain portions of APL's November 7, 1996 application for participation in the MSP, provides MARAD the information as to ASM required for action by MARAD on the application to transfer APL's ODSA to ASM (in addition to providing the requisite information to support MARAD permission for the transfer to ASM of the MSP Operating Agreements).

ASM requests that MARAD:

1. Allow such transfers to become effective in accordance with such application and pursuant to law; and
2. Take any and all actions that MARAD may deem necessary or appropriate in order to confirm and/or effectuate ASM's participation in the MSP as transferee of the MSP Operating Agreements.