

"The involved tires produced from this mold during the aforementioned production period comply with all other requirements of 49 CFR 571.119 and 574.5."

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on the application of Cooper described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management, Room Pub. L. 401, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20590. It is requested that two copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be considered. The application and supporting materials, and all comments received after the closing date, will also be filed and will be considered to the extent possible. When the application is granted or denied, the notice will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Comment closing date: January 16, 1998.

(49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

Issued on: December 11, 1997.

**L. Robert Shelton,**

*Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

[FR Doc. 97-32882 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB ex Parte No. 558 (Sub-No. 1)]

### Railroad Cost of Capital—1997

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of decision instituting a proceeding to determine the railroads' 1997 cost of capital.

**SUMMARY:** The Board is instituting a proceeding to determine the railroad industry's cost of capital for 1997. The decision solicits comments on: (1) the railroads' 1997 cost of debt capital; (2) the railroads' 1997 current cost of preferred stock equity capital; (3) the railroads' 1997 cost of common stock equity capital; and (4) the 1997 capital structure mix of the railroad industry on a market value basis.

**DATES:** Notices of intent to participate are due no later than December 30, 1997. A service list will then be prepared and issued by January 14, 1998. Statements of the railroads are due by March 20, 1998. Statements of other interested persons are due by

April 10, 1998. Rebuttal statements by the railroads are due by April 24, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send an original and 10 copies of statements and a copy of the statement on a 3.5 inch disk in WordPerfect 6.1, and an original and 1 copy of the notice of intent to participate to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leonard J. Blistein, (202) 565-1529. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To obtain a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: Office of the Secretary, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Room 700, Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 565-1650. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.] A copy of the decision can also be obtained from the Board's internet site ([www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov)).

We preliminarily conclude that the proposed action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 10704(a).

Decided: December 5, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-32778 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Customs Service

[T.D. 97-99]

### Customs Approval of V.I.P Cargo Surveys Incorporated as a Commercial Gauger and Accredited Laboratory

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of approval and accreditation of V.I.P Cargo Survey, Inc. as a commercial gauger and accredited laboratory.

**SUMMARY:** V.I.P Cargo Surveys, Inc. of Aransas Pass, Texas, has applied to U.S. Customs to extend its approval to gauge petroleum and petroleum products and accreditation to perform petroleum analysis methods under Part 151.13 of the Customs Regulations (19 CAR

151.13) to their Texas City, Texas facility. Customs has determined that this office meets all of the requirements for approval as a commercial gauger. Additionally, Customs has determined that this facility meets all requirements for accreditation as a Commercial Laboratory to perform (1) API Gravity, (2) Water by Distillation, (3) Sediment by Extraction, (4) Saybolt Universal Viscosity, (5) Sediment and Water and (6) Distillation. Therefore, in accordance with Part 151.13(f) of the Customs Regulations, V.I.P Cargo Surveys, Inc., Texas City, Texas, is approved to gauge the products named above and to perform the analysis methods listed above in all Customs ports.

**LOCATION:** V.I.P Cargo Surveys Inc. approved and accredited site is located at: 1442 Texas Avenue, Texas City, Texas 77590.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 20, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ira S. Reese, Senior Science Officer, Laboratories and Scientific Services, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 5.5-B, Washington, D.C. 20229 at (202) 927-1060.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

**George D. Heavey,**

*Director, Laboratories and Scientific Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-32858 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy Meeting

**AGENCY:** United States Information Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will meet on December 17 in Room 600, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The Commission will meet with the Honorable Joseph Duffey, Director, U.S. Information Agency, and the Honorable Penn Kemble, Deputy Director, U.S. Information Agency, to discuss legislation, budget, and reorganization matters.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Please call Betty Hayes, (202) 619-4468, if you are interested in attending the meeting. Space is limited and entrance to the building is controlled.