

listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. In addition, any person may, upon request, inspect the application, notice and other documents germane to the application in person at the New Hanover County Airport Authority.

Issued in College Park, Georgia on February 4, 1998.

**Dell T. Jernigan,**

*Manager, Atlanta Airports Division, Southern Region.*

[FR Doc. 98-3726 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Intelligent Transportation Society of America; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS AMERICA) will hold a meeting of its Board of Directors on Thursday, March 19, 1998. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. and will have an Administrative Business session at 1:00 p.m. (Voting Board Members and staff Only). The letter designations that follow each item mean the following: (I) is an "information item;" (A) is an action item; (D) is a discussion item. This meeting includes the following items: (1) Introductions and ITS America Antitrust Policy and Conflict of Interest Statements; (2) Review and Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes (A); (3) Federal Reports (I/D); (4) ISTEA Reauthorization Principles (A); (5) Report of the Executive Committee (I/D); (6) Coordinating Council Report (I); (7) State Chapters Council Reports (I); (8) ITS America Association Report (I); (9) ITS Awareness Program Update (I); (10) Futures Group Report (I); (11) Report of the ITS World Congress and Other International ITS Activities (I/D); (12) 1998 ITS America Annual Meeting (A); (13) ITS America IVI Activities (I/D); (14) Other Program Business. *Business Session* (Begins at 1 p.m.) (15) President's Report (I); (16) Report of the Membership Committee (I); (17) Report of the Membership Committee (I); (18) Governance Policy Report (I/D); (19) Nominating Committee Report (A); (20) Other Business; (21) Adjournment until May 6, 1998, Board of Directors Meeting in Detroit, MI.

ITS AMERICA provides a forum for national discussion and recommendations on ITS activities

including programs, research needs, strategic planning, standards, international liaison, and priorities.

The charter for the utilization of ITS AMERICA establishes this organization as an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) 5 USC app. 2, when it provides advice or recommendations to DOT officials on ITS policies and programs. (56 FR 9400, March 6, 1991).

**DATES:** The Board of Directors of ITS AMERICA will meet on Thursday, March 19, 1998, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, IL. *Phone:* (847) 696-1234; *Fax:* (847) 696-1418.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Materials associated with this meeting may be examined at the offices of ITS AMERICA, 400 Virginia Avenue SW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20024. Persons needing further information or who request to speak at this meeting should contact Kenneth Faunteroy at ITS AMERICA by telephone at (202) 484-4130 or by FAX at (202) 484-3483. The DOT contact is Mary C. Pigott, FHWA, HVH-1, Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 366-9230. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except for legal holidays.

(23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48)

Issued: February 9, 1998.

**Jeffrey Paniati,**

*Deputy Director, ITS Joint Program Office.*

[FR Doc. 98-3652 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT

[Docket No. RSPA-97-3224; Notice 11]

#### Pipeline Safety: Environmental Assessment for Risk Management Demonstration Project—Shell Pipe Line Corporation

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety, DOT.

**ACTION:** Environmental Assessment.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its Congressional mandate to conduct a Risk Management Demonstration Program, the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has been authorized to conduct demonstration projects with pipeline operators to determine how risk management might be used to complement and improve the existing Federal pipeline safety regulatory process. This is an

environmental assessment of Shell Pipe Line Corporation's (SPLC) demonstration project. Based on this environmental assessment, OPS has preliminarily concluded that this proposed project will not have significant environmental impacts.

**ADDRESSES:** OPS requests that comments about this environmental assessment be submitted on or before March 16, 1998, so they can be considered before project approval. Comments should be sent to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, or you can E-Mail your comments to ops.comments@rspa.dot.gov. Comments should identify the docket number RSPA-97-3224. Persons should submit the original comment document and one (1) copy. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. The Dockets Facility is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building in Room 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Callsen, OPS, (202) 366-4572, regarding the subject matter of this environmental assessment. Contact the Dockets Unit, (202) 366-9322, for docket material.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### A. Background and Purpose

A Presidential Directive to the Secretary of Transportation (October 16, 1996) stated that in implementing the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program: "The Secretary shall require each project to achieve superior levels of public safety and environmental protection when compared with regulatory requirements that otherwise would apply." Thus, the process to select operators for this Demonstration Program involves a comprehensive review to ensure that the proposed project will provide the superior safety and environmental protection required by this Directive. This document summarizes the key points of this review for Shell Pipe Line Corporation's (SPLC) demonstration project, and evaluates the safety and environmental impacts of this proposed project.

This document was prepared in accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of

Transportation Order 5610.1c, Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts.

## B. Description of the Proposed Action

As a result of a comprehensive review of the risk management demonstration project SPLC proposed, the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) proposes to approve this project for participation in the Demonstration Program.

The SPLC project would involve two pipeline segments:

(1) Texas-Louisiana 12" Ethylene Pipeline System—205 miles of 250 mi. (Within the States of Texas and Louisiana); and

(2) Cortez 30" Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Pipeline System—260 miles of 502 mi. (Within the States of Colorado and New Mexico).

A full description of the scope of this project appears in 62 FR 67932.

The OPS Project Review Team that conducted this review has concluded the SPLC project will:

1. Provide superior safety and environmental protection for both of the pipeline segments proposed for the demonstration project; and
2. Offer a good opportunity to evaluate risk management as a component of the Federal pipeline safety regulatory program.

The Project Review Team evaluated the project according to review protocols and criteria. This evaluation is documented in "OPS Project Review Team Evaluation of Shell Demonstration Project."

As a candidate for the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program, SPLC conducted a thorough and systematic risk assessment to identify hazards and risks associated with operating both demonstration segments. This risk assessment is described in "OPS Project Review Team Evaluation of Shell Demonstration Project". Teams of SPLC personnel representing each demonstration pipeline system, and possessing an average of over 25 years of expertise in pipeline design, construction, operations, and maintenance, performed the assessments. These assessments confirmed expectations that the greatest risk to both segments is damage by third party excavation activities near the pipelines.

To control this risk, the SPLC teams identified a number of new preventative measures, as well as the enhancement of several existing activities, to address both identifying the possibility of the existence of any past excavation-related damage and the prevention of any future damage of this type. These risk control activities include:

Right of Way Surveillance:

- Increasing the frequency of air patrols beyond 26 per year.
- Improving the timeliness and effectiveness of air patrol reporting.
- Improving line-riding procedures and plans.
- Defining and implementing improved patrol activities at critical locations.

Pipeline Locating:

- Evaluating the need for additional and/or improved style of line markers.
- Labeling line markers with locating information.
- Installing vehicle barriers where above-ground facilities are near roads (Texas—Louisiana line only—no such equipment exists on the Cortez system.).
- Installing warning mesh prior to backfilling when the line is exposed for construction.

• Conducting annual depth of cover surveys at road crossings on the Cortez system; evaluating the need for such surveys on the Texas—Louisiana line.

- Furthering company involvement in and sponsorship of One-Call programs.
- Improving procedures and resources for communicating requirements for and managing third party crossings of the lines.

Public Awareness and Education:

- Conducting dispersion modeling and utilizing the results in improving emergency response plans and drills, and targeting recipients of pipeline safety mailings.
- Providing improved maps and user-friendly information to emergency responders.
- Developing a "Good Neighbor Plan" to increase public awareness.
- Improving existing repair (emergency response) plans and procedures.
- Conducting simulated release drills with emergency responders, and updating the Facility Response Plan manual.
- Conducting a corporate-wide workshop on best practices.

Except as noted above, these activities will be performed on both demonstration segments. In addition, for the Texas—Louisiana line, SPLC will conduct an internal inspection using a geometry/smart pig and compare the results with recent Close Interval Survey results to determine if there are any instances of prior unknown third party damage. For the Cortez system, SPLC will conduct a Close Interval Survey over the entire demonstration segment with emphasis on determining if prior third party damage has occurred. All of the risk control activities proposed by SPLC exceed regulatory requirements.

The OPS Project Review Team has reviewed these risk control activities

and believes that significant improvements in Right-of-Way surveillance, pipeline locating, public education and awareness, and identification of the possibility of unknown past third party damage will result from this project. In addition, emergency preparedness would be improved through increased communications with local emergency responders, including the conduct of drills and the sharing of information from release modeling.

SPLC has also identified performance measures to monitor the effectiveness of these risk control activities throughout the life of the demonstration project to ensure that the desired outcome of improved protection is achieved. Measures have also been established to evaluate the institutionalization of risk management within SPLC. The performance measures will form the basis for OPS audits of demonstration project effectiveness.

For the Texas-Louisiana 12" Ethylene Pipeline System, no regulatory exemptions are being sought. The company will still be required to comply with all of the applicable requirements of 49 CFR part 195. In addition, the new and enhanced risk control activities to address third party damage risks will be implemented as noted above.

For the Cortez 30" Carbon Dioxide Pipeline System, relief from the maximum operating pressure requirement of 49 CFR 195.406 (a)(1-3) over a 25-mile segment immediately downstream of the Cortez Station—all of which is located in a rural and sparsely populated area—is being sought under this program. This regulatory requirement remains in full force over the remainder of the Cortez system, and all other applicable Part 195 requirements remain in full force for the entire pipeline. SPLC conducted several technical evaluations to demonstrate the safety of operating the initial 25 miles at the higher pressure. Furthermore, the installation of redundant over pressure protection systems, risk control activities to ensure the existing integrity of line, and safety precautions taken prior to increasing pressure will further minimize the risk associated with the increased operating pressure.

In addition to the risk control activities implemented to minimize the risk associated with increasing the Cortez Station discharge pressure, SPLC will implement the previously mentioned risk control activities to address past and future third party damage over the entire 260 mile Cortez demonstration segment. In addition, over the initial 25 miles downstream of

the Cortez Station, a depth of cover survey will be conducted and correlated with the Close Interval Survey results to help identify if there is any past third party damage.

The SPLC demonstration project does not involve the construction of any new pump station or pipeline. The increased operating pressure will be accomplished by making modifications to the existing Cortez Pump Station. In fact, with the flexibility to raise pressure above regulatory limits, SPLC can increase throughput (the amount of commodity transported) without having to construct an intermediate pump station near Blanco, NM. Such a project would involve major new construction, including bringing utilities to a relatively remote site.

More detailed descriptions of all aspects of the SPLC proposal, risk assessment, and the OPS rationale for approving the project, are available in the following documents:

(1) 62 FR 67932, "Pipeline Safety: Intent To Approve Shell Pipe Line Corporation for the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program", December 30, 1997.

(2) "Demonstration Project Prospectus: Shell Pipe Line Corporation", available by contacting Elizabeth M. Callsen at 202-366-4572. Includes maps of the demonstration segments.

(3) "Shell Pipe Line Corporation—Application for DOT-OPS Risk Management Demonstration Program", available in Docket No. RSPA-97-3224 at the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-5046.

(4) "OPS Project Review Team Evaluation of Shell Demonstration Project".

These documents are incorporated by reference into this environmental assessment and are accessible to the public via the Pipeline Risk Management Information System (PRIMIS), at <http://www.cycla.com/opsdemo>.

### C. Purpose and Need for Action

As authorized by Congress, OPS is conducting a structured Demonstration Program to evaluate the use of a comprehensive risk management approach in the operations and regulation of interstate pipeline facilities. This evaluation is being performed under strictly controlled conditions through a set of demonstration projects being conducted with interstate pipeline operators. Through the Demonstration Program, OPS will determine whether a risk

management approach, properly implemented and monitored through a formal risk management regulatory framework, achieves:

(1) Superior safety and environmental protection; and

(2) Increased efficiency and service reliability of pipeline operations.

In May, 1997, SPLC submitted a Letter of Intent to OPS, asking to be considered as a Demonstration Program candidate. Using the consultative process described in Appendix A of the Requests for Application for the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program (62 FR 14719), published on March 27, 1997, OPS is satisfied that SPLC's proposal will provide superior safety and environmental protection, and is prepared to finalize the agreement with SPLC on the provisions for the demonstration project.

### D. Alternatives Considered

OPS has considered two alternatives; approval or denial of the SPLC demonstration project.

OPS's preferred alternative is approval of the SPLC demonstration project. OPS is satisfied that the proposal provides protection for both of the demonstration segments. For the Texas-Louisiana ethylene line, all of the proposed risk control activities go beyond the current regulatory requirements and thus provide a higher level of protection than exists today. OPS and SPLC will monitor and, if necessary, improve the effectiveness of the risk control activities throughout the demonstration period.

For the Cortez line, OPS is satisfied that the safety margin in the pipe can accommodate the proposed increase in pressure without adding significant additional risk to the public. Furthermore, SPLC has adequately demonstrated that the combination of third party damage and other risk control activities described earlier more than offset any increase in risk associated with the higher operating pressure in the first 25-miles of the line. If OPS does not approve the SPLC demonstration project, SPLC plans to construct a pump station near Blanco, NM, to achieve increased throughput on the Cortez line without raising pressure beyond regulatory limits. The construction site would be located in desert terrain, would cover approximately three acres, and would require a new right-of-way for the installation of nine to ten miles of electric transmission line.

### E. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

The two pipelines proposed for this demonstration project transport distinctly different products that represent very different hazards. The Texas-Louisiana line transports chemical-grade ethylene, a flammable, highly volatile liquid that becomes a slightly lighter-than-air gas when released to the atmosphere. Under certain conditions, it could form an explosive vapor cloud until diluted or dispersed. The only potential environmental impact of an ethylene release would be the localized damage created by a fire or explosion in the vicinity of the release. Because of its volatile nature, ethylene is not considered a water pollutant. The Cortez system transports commercial grade carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a naturally occurring component of air and presents no environmental hazard. However, at high concentrations in confined, low lying areas, it could represent an asphyxiation hazard until it is dispersed or diluted.

During the course of the consultation, SPLC presented the results of their risk control and decision support process that identified the risk control activities they propose to implement on the Cortez and Texas-Louisiana systems. The OPS Project Review Team carefully reviewed these activities and concluded that superior protection would be provided for both pipeline systems.

For the Texas-Louisiana Ethylene System, SPLC has not requested any exemptions or variances from the existing regulations. The risk assessment for the Texas-Louisiana system identified damage from third party excavation activities as the most significant contributor to potential pipeline ruptures and leaks. This conclusion is supported by the operating history of this system.

To address these third party damage risks, SPLC proposes to implement a number of risk control activities (mentioned previously). The OPS Project Review Team reviewed the Texas-Louisiana risk control activities during the consultation process and provided input that helped define the final set of activities. As stated previously, all of these risk control activities go beyond the existing regulations in providing additional assurance of safety. The OPS review included an examination for potentially negative, unintended outcomes from the proposed activities: No significant negative impacts were identified. OPS has concluded that the risk control activities listed above when combined

with the existing company practices (which comply with and in some cases exceed 49 CFR part 195 requirements) will reduce the likelihood of pipeline accidents and leaks on the Texas-Louisiana Ethylene System. The insights from the dispersion analysis and the improvements to the emergency response plans and drills should improve the responsiveness of the company and local officials to an event, should a leak or rupture occur. Thus, the consequences of a leak or rupture should be diminished. In summary, based on expected reductions in both the likelihood and consequences of leaks and ruptures, OPS has concluded that the proposed risk control activities will clearly reduce safety and environmental risks on the Texas-Louisiana system.

For the Cortez Carbon Dioxide system, the only activity SPLC proposes to take that would increase risk is increasing the operating pressure downstream of the Cortez pump station. For the initial 25 miles, the pressure might be increased by up to 11% above the limit currently established by the regulations. SPLC has conducted several technical evaluations to demonstrate that it could safely operate the pipeline at the higher pressure over the initial 25 mile segment. Furthermore, the installation of redundant over pressure protection systems, risk control activities to ensure the existing integrity of line, and safety precautions taken prior to and during the increase in pressure will minimize any risk associated with the increased operating pressure.

The risk assessment for the Cortez system identified damage from third party excavation activities as the most significant contributor to potential pipeline ruptures and leaks. To address these risks, SPLC proposes to implement a number of risk control activities (mentioned previously). The OPS Project Review Team reviewed the Cortez risk control activities during the consultation process and provided input that helped define the final set listed previously. This review included an examination for potentially negative, unintended outcomes from the proposed activities. No significant negative impacts were identified.

The PRT has concluded that the risk control activities listed above when combined with the existing company practices (which comply with and in some cases exceed 49 CFR part 195 requirements) will reduce the likelihood of third party damage related events on the Cortez system (the most significant risk to the system). The activities designed to identify instances of prior third party damage should increase the

likelihood that prior unknown damage, if any, will be detected and remediated. These activities should minimize the likelihood that any such damage will result in leaks or ruptures at the higher operating pressure. OPS believes that this combination of risk control activities will reduce the likelihood of a Cortez system leak or rupture and more than offset the small increase in likelihood of line failure associated with higher operating pressure.

The insights from the dispersion analysis, the improvements to the emergency response plans and drills, and field personnel training should improve the responsiveness of the company and local officials to an event, should a leak or rupture occur. Thus, the consequences of a leak or rupture should be diminished. In summary, based on expected reductions in both the likelihood and consequences of leaks and ruptures, OPS concludes that the combination of risk control activities in conjunction with the increase in operating pressure by no more than 11% over the first 25 miles will result in superior protection of the public.

#### **F. Environmental Justice Considerations**

In accordance with Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations), we have considered the effects of the demonstration project on minority and low-income populations. As explained above, OPS believes this project will provide superior safety and environmental protection along both demonstration project lines. The pipeline segments proposed for the project are routed through rural, sparsely populated, industrial and developing residential areas. A mixture of income levels resides along the segments. The risk control activities provide greater protection than mere compliance with existing regulations. Because risk management activities will be applied uniformly along both lines, residents and communities near each line will be afforded greater protection than they presently have, regardless of the residents' income level or minority status. Therefore, the proposed project does not have any disproportionately high or adverse health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income populations along the demonstration segments.

#### **G. Information Made Available to States, Local Governments, Individuals**

OPS has recently (in January and February 1998) made the following documents publicly available, and

incorporates them by reference into this environmental assessment:

(1) 62 FR 67932, "Pipeline Safety: Intent To Approve Shell Pipe Line Corporation for the Pipeline Risk Management Demonstration Program", December 30, 1997.

(2) "Demonstration Project Prospectus: Shell Pipe Line Corporation", January 1998, available by contacting Elizabeth M. Callsen at 202-366-4572. Includes maps of the demonstration segments. Purpose is to reach the public, local officials, and other stakeholders, and to solicit their input about the proposed project. Mailed to over 500 individuals, including Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) and other local safety officials, Regional Response Teams (RRT) representing other federal agencies, state pipeline safety officials, conference attendees, and members of public interest groups.

(3) "Shell Pipe Line Corporation—Application for DOT-OPS Risk Management Demonstration Program", available in Docket No. RSPA-97-3224 at the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202)366-5046.

(4) "OPS Project Review Team Evaluation of Shell Demonstration Project".

OPS has previously provided information to the public about the SPLC project, and has requested public comment, using many different sources. OPS aired three electronic broadcast (June 5, 1997; September 17, 1997; and December 4, 1997) reporting on demonstration project proposals (including SPLC's proposal). Two earlier **Federal Register** notices (62 FR 40135; July 25, 1997 and 62 FR 53052; October 10, 1997) informed the public that SPLC was interested in participating in the Demonstration Program, provided general information about technical issues and risk control alternatives to be explored, and identified the geographic areas the demonstration project would traverse.

Since August, OPS has used an Internet-accessible data system called the Pipeline Risk Management Information System (PRIMIS) at <http://www.cycla.com/opsdemo> to collect, update, and exchange information about all demonstration candidates, including SPLC.

At a November 19, 1997, public meeting OPS hosted in Houston, TX, SPLC officials presented a summary of the proposed demonstration project and answered questions from meeting attendees. (Portions of this meeting were broadcast on December 4, 1997. This

broadcast is available on demand via our OPS website ops.dot.gov/tmvid.htm.)

#### H. Listing of the Agencies and Persons Consulted, Including Any Consultants

##### *Persons/Agencies Directly Involved in Project Evaluation*

Stacey Gerard, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation

James C. Thomas (retired), OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation

Linda Daugherty, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation

Elizabeth Callsen, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation

Richard Lopez, OPS/U.S. Department of Transportation

Dana Arabie, Office of Conservation, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

Mary McDaniel, Gas Services Division, Railroad Commission of Texas

Anthony Karahalios, Colorado Public Utilities Commission

Jim vonHerrmann, Cycla Corporation (consultant)

Robert Brown, Cycla Corporation (consultant).

##### *Persons/Agencies Receiving Briefings/Project Prospectus/Requests for Comment*

Regional Response Team (RRT), Regions 6 & 8, representing the Environmental Protection Agency; the Coast Guard; the U.S. Departments of Interior, Commerce, Justice, Transportation, Agriculture, Defense, State, Energy, Labor; Health and Human Services; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the General Services Administration; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (RRT Co-Chairs: Jim Knoy, EPA Region 8 and Cdr. Ed Stanton, Coast Guard 8th District).

#### I. Conclusion

Based on the above-described analysis of the proposed demonstration project, OPS has determined that there are no significant impacts associated with this action.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 9, 1998.

**Richard B. Felder,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*  
[FR Doc. 98-3630 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

##### Office of Thrift Supervision

[AC-12: OTS No. 1150]

##### **Gloversville Federal Savings and Loan Association, Gloversville, NY; Approval of Conversion Application**

Notice is hereby given that on February 5, 1998, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Gloversville Federal Savings and Loan Association, Gloversville, New York, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20552, and the Northeast Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 10 Exchange Place, 18th Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302.

Dated: February 10, 1998.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

**Nadine Y. Washington,**

*Corporate Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-3702 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-M

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

##### Office of Thrift Supervision

[AC-10: OTS Nos. H-3032 and 03401]

##### **Pocahontas Federal Mutual Holding Company, Pocahontas, AR; Approval of Conversion Application**

Notice is hereby given that on February 3, 1998, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Pocahontas Federal Mutual Holding Company, Pocahontas, Arkansas, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20552, and the Midwest Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 122 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 600, Irving, Texas 75039-2010.

Dated: February 10, 1998.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

**Nadine Y. Washington,**

*Corporate Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-3700 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-M

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

##### Office of Thrift Supervision

[AC-11: OTS Nos. H-2471 and 12559]

##### **Peoples Bancorp, M.H.C., Lawrenceville, NJ; Approval of Conversion Application**

Notice is hereby given that on February 5, 1998, the Director, Corporate Activities, Office of Thrift Supervision, or her designee, acting pursuant to delegated authority, approved the application of Peoples Bancorp, M.H.C., Lawrenceville, New Jersey, to convert to the stock form of organization. Copies of the application are available for inspection at the Dissemination Branch, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552, and the Northeast Regional Office, Office of Thrift Supervision, 10 Exchange Place, 18th Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302.

Dated: February 10, 1998.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

**Nadine Y. Washington,**

*Corporate Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 98-3701 Filed 2-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-M

#### UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

##### **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 February 18 in Room 600, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At 10 a.m. the Commission will hold a panel discussion on training issues. The panelists are Colonel David Tretler, Dean of Faculty, National War College, and Dan Gillison, Chief of Staff and Manager, Human Resources and Quality, Xerox Corporation. At 11 a.m. the Commissioner will meet with Ms. Ruth Whiteside, Deputy Director, Foreign Service Institute, and Ms. Pamela Corey-Archer, Director of Career Development and Training, USIA, to discuss management's long-term training goals after reorganization and how agencies can adapt to the information technologies that are changing organizations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Please call Betty Hayes, (202) 619-4468, if you are interested in attending the