

was previously identified with FRA Docket Number RST-93-3.

The present waiver was granted by FRA to BNSF in August 1990 to permit the use on certain BNSF tracks of a device known as a Bulldog Clamp®. The purpose of the device is to provide additional security between detection and removal of certain types of transverse defects internal to a rail head. The device achieves this purpose by functioning as a boltless track joint centered on a rail at the location of a flaw and being attached to the rail by two "C" clamps. It is claimed that avoidance of bolting the joint saves times, but more important, eliminates drilled bolt holes in the rail web which can serve later as sources of equally unwanted defects of a different type. FRA has granted extensions to that original waiver up to the present time.

BNSF specifically requests of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) that the subject waiver be extended for an indefinite period unless modified or revoked by FRA, that BNSF be relieved from monthly reporting as presently required in the terms of the waiver, and that the waiver be made applicable on additional tracks owned by BNSF beyond the ten line segments presently encompassed in the waiver.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should be identified with docket number FRA-1999-5103 and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Communications received within 30 days of publication of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 7, 1999.

Edward R. English,

Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[FRA Docket No. FRA-1999-5102]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance With Certain Provisions of 49 CFR 213.233(c) Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

In accordance with 49 CFR 211.41, notice is hereby given that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) under date of January 7, 1999, for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 213: TRACK SAFETY STANDARDS.

The purpose of the petition is to request of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) relief from compliance with the provisions of 49 CFR 213.233(c) of the Federal Track Safety Standards. The petitioner requests approval to reduce the frequency of visual track inspections required by this section for certain tracks which carry passenger traffic, specifically only those tracks that are constructed with continuous welded rail. Petitioner proposes to conduct one visual track inspection per week, instead of the two inspections per week presently required, and to supplement its visual inspections with the operation of an automated track geometry measuring vehicle over the affected main track and sidings four times per year. SEPTA has owned and operated such a measuring vehicle since 1990.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should be identified with docket number FRA-1999-5102 and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Washington, DC

20590-0001. Communications received within 30 days of publication of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) at DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh Street, S.W. Washington, DC. All documents in the public docket at also available for inspection and copying on the internet at the docket facility Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 7, 1999.

Edward R. English,

Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. RSAC-96-1, Notice No. 17]

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee ("RSAC"); Working Group Activity Update

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Announcement of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) Working Group Activities.

SUMMARY: FRA is updating its announcement of RSAC's working group activities to reflect the current status of working group activities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vicky McCully, RSAC Coordinator, FRA, 400 7th Street, S.W. Washington, DC. 20590, (202) 493-6305 or Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards Program Development, FRA, 400 7th Street, SW., Stop 25, Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 493-6302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice serves to update FRA's last announcement of working group activities and status reports on December 29, 1998 (63 FR 71668). The tenth full Committee meeting was held January 28, 1999. The next meeting of the full Committee is scheduled for April 15, 1999, at the Wyndham Hotel in Washington, DC.

Since its first meeting in April of 1996, the RSAC has accepted fifteen tasks. Status for each of the tasks is provided below: