

modernization and expansion of the U.S. merchant marine. The program encourages construction, reconstruction, or acquisition of vessels through the deferment of Federal income taxes on certain deposits of money or other property placed into a CCF.

*Annual Estimated Burden Hours:* 2130 hours.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

*Comments Are Invited on:* Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC on January 7, 2000.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 00-820 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

#### Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of establishment of advisory committee.

**SUMMARY:** The Maritime Administration announces the establishment of the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC). The MTSNAC will advise the Secretary of Transportation, via the Council Sponsor, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration, on matters relating to the Marine Transportation System (MTS)—waterways, ports, and their intermodal connections.

**ADDRESSES:** You may request a copy of the charter for the Council by writing to Kathleen R. Dunn, Maritime Administration, MAR 810, Room 7209, Washington, DC 20590; by calling (202) 366-2307; or by faxing (202) 366-6988.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathleen R. Dunn, telephone (202) 366-2307, fax (202) 366-6988.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The MTSNAC is being established in accordance with the recommendations made in the Report to Congress titled "An Assessment of the U.S. Marine Transportation System." The Council will consider matters relating to current and future MTS needs. These matters will include not only strategies to ensure a safe, environmentally sound, and secure MTS that improves the global competitiveness and national security of the U.S., but also issues and concerns brought to the Council by elements of the marine transportation industry or such other matters that the Secretary may charge the Council with addressing. The Council shall be composed of representatives from not more than 30 non-Federal organizations from the marine transportation industry as designated by the Secretary of Transportation. The member organizations shall represent a cross section of the diverse components that comprise the MTS including private sector organizations and state and local public entities. At least two meetings will be held each calendar year. As required by section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act 5 U.S.C. App. 2, Sec. 9(a)(2) and 41 CFR 101-6.1007, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has consulted with the Committee Management Secretariat of the General Services Administration and the Office of Management and Budget. DOT certifies that the creation of this advisory committee is necessary and is in the public interest. This notice is published pursuant to section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, Sec. 9(a)(2) and 41 CFR 101-6.1015.

**Duration:** The duration of the Council shall be continuing.

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. App. 2, Sec. 9(a)(2); 41 CFR 101-6.1005; DOT Order 1120.3B.

Dated: January 7, 2000.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-819 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33813]

#### RailAmerica, Inc.—Control Exemption—RailTex, Inc.

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board.

**ACTION:** Notice of Exemption.

**SUMMARY:** The Surface Transportation Board (Board) has exempted under 49 U.S.C. 10502 the acquisition by RailAmerica, Inc. (RailAmerica), a railroad holding company, of direct control of RailTex, Inc. (RailTex), a railroad holding company, and indirect control of RailTex's 17 domestic Class III rail carriers.

**DATES:** This exemption will be effective on January 14, 2000. Petitions to reopen must be filed by February 2, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** Send pleadings (an original and 25 copies) referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33813 to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of pleadings to Rail America's representative: Louis E. Gitomer, Of Counsel, Ball Janik LLP, 1455 F Street, N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Julia M. Farr, (202) 565-1613. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD/TDY services at 1-800-877-8339.]

**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: Da-To-Da Office Solutions, Mercury Building, 1925 K Street, N.W., Room 210, Washington, DC 20006. Until further notice, Da-To-Da Office Solutions' telephone number in the Mercury Building will be (202) 289-4357. In addition, Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: January 7, 2000.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Burkes and Commissioner Clyburn.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 00-858 Filed 1-12-00; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4915-00-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service

**AGENCY:** Department Offices, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the date and time for the next meeting and the provisional agenda for consideration by the Committee.

**DATES:** The next meeting of the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial