

amended criteria from that in the February 8, 2000, document and again solicits applications for this advisory committee.

Structure of Committee

The Committee will consist of one U.S. Customs representative and up to eight industry members, selected to fairly balance the points of view to be represented and functions to be performed. The Deputy Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service will be the Customs representative and will chair the Committee. The Deputy Commissioner may designate another official to serve in his absence as Acting Chairperson for purposes of presiding over a meeting of the Committee or performing any other duty of the chairperson. Two senior managers representing the Office of Finance and the Office of Field Operations of the U.S. Customs Service will serve as technical representatives to the chairperson. The Committee will be in existence unless, or until, such time as its establishment is repealed by Congress.

Industry Members Sought

Industry members will be selected by the Commissioner of Customs from parties in various sectors of the transportation industry that directly pay COBRA user fees. The parties include operators of any of the following: railways, trucks, barges, commercial cargo vessels, commercial passenger vessels, general aviation, and passenger aircraft.

Whenever possible, the Commissioner will seek to select two members from among passenger aircraft operators and one member each from operators of railways, trucks, barges, commercial cargo vessels, commercial passenger vessels and general aviation. Additional passenger aircraft operators may be selected as members if the other sectors do not have a qualified applicant.

No person who is required to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act or representative of a foreign principal may serve on the Advisory Committee.

It is noted that certain criteria set forth in the prior notice published soliciting applicants for the Customs COBRA Fees Advisory Committee have been amended. In particular, membership on the Committee is now restricted to parties who directly pay COBRA user fees. Thus, trade associations and similar transportation industry representatives are eliminated from possible membership on the Committee.

Also, the amended criteria make clear that a party who serves on another advisory committee is ineligible for membership on the Customs COBRA Fees Advisory Committee if the other advisory committee is chartered by the Department of the Treasury, including any separate bureau, service or other office within the Department of the Treasury.

Applicants must demonstrate professional or personal qualifications relevant to the purpose, functions and tasks of the Committee. Appointments will be made with the objective of creating a diverse and balanced body with a variety of interests, backgrounds and viewpoints. Accordingly, because members will be selected based on their individual credentials and qualifications, membership on the Committee will be personal to the appointees; members will not be allowed to designate alternates to represent them at Committee meetings.

Members will not be paid compensation, nor will they be considered Federal employees for any reason. No per diem, transportation or other expenses will be reimbursed for the cost of attending meetings of the Committee, regardless of the location.

Meetings

Except when there are special meetings, no more than four meetings will be held during a two-year period, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Regular meetings will be held at six-month intervals. An occasional special meeting may be held at the discretion of the chairperson and the members.

Meetings are open to public observers, including the press, unless special procedures have been followed to close a meeting to the public. In the event of an unavoidable absence of a member at a meeting, even though an alternate may not represent a member, a representative of the member's organization may attend the session as a nonparticipating observer, even if the meeting is closed to the public.

Meetings will generally be held at the U.S. Customs Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C. On occasion, meetings may be held outside of Customs Headquarters, generally at a Customs port.

Terms of Service

Initially, half the members (or as close to half as possible) will be appointed for a term of twelve months and the remainder of the members will be appointed for a term of twenty-four months. For example, should the Committee consist of seven industry

members, three will be appointed for a term of twelve months and four will be appointed for a term of twenty-four months. Thereafter, members will serve for a period of twenty-four months. Members who served on the Committee during a prior term or terms are eligible to reapply for membership. However, it is expected that approximately half of the seats on the Committee will be filled with new members.

Applications for Membership

Any interested person wishing to serve on the Customs COBRA Fees Advisory Committee must provide the following: a statement of interest and reasons for application together with a complete professional biography or resume. In addition, applicants must state in their applications that they agree to submit to pre-appointment security and tax checks. There is no prescribed format for the application. Applicants may send a cover letter describing their interest and qualifications, along with a resume. Applications that were previously received for membership on the Committee will need to be resubmitted for consideration under this document.

Dated: June 16, 2000.

Raymond W. Kelly,

Commissioner of Customs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in accordance with Public Law 92-463, gives notice that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities (Committee) will be held on: Thursday, June 22, 2000: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, June 23, 2000: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The location of the meeting will be 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, Room 460 on June 22, 2000, and Room 442 on June 23, 2000.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary on matters of structural safety in the construction and remodeling of VA facilities and to recommend standards for use by VA in the construction and alteration of facilities as prescribed under Section 8105 of Title 38, United States Code.

On June 22, the Committee will review the developments in the field of

structural design, as they relate to seismic safety of buildings, and fire safety issues. On June 23, the Committee will vote on structural and fire safety issues for inclusion in VA's standards.

Both meetings will be open to the public. It will be necessary for those

wishing to attend to contact Krishna K. Banga, Senior Structural Engineer, Facilities Quality Service, Office of Facilities Management, Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office (phone 202-565-9370) prior to the meeting.

Dated: June 12, 2000.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Marvin R. Eason,

Committee Management Officer.

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