

Copies may be provided to the audience at the discretion of the participant.

(7) Statements made by the FAA and JAA are intended to facilitate discussion of issues or to clarify issues. Any statement made during the meeting by an official is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, a position of the FAA or JAA.

(8) The meeting is designed to solicit public views and more complete information on proposed harmonization initiatives. Therefore, the meeting will be conducted in an informal and nonadversarial manner. No individual will be subject to cross-examination by any other participant; however, panel members may ask questions to clarify a statement and to ensure a complete and accurate record.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 18, 2000.

**Brenda D. Courtney,**

*Manager, Aircraft and Airport Rules Division.*  
[FR Doc. 00-27333 Filed 10-24-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance from certain requirements of its safety regulations. The individual petition is described below including, the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favour of relief.

#### Texas Parks and Wildlife

[Docket Number FRA-2000-7270]

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) seeks a permanent waiver of compliance from 49 CFR 232.17(b)(2) to extend the clean, oil, test, and stencil (COT&S) period from 15 to 48 months on passenger cars they operate equipped with UC and L type air brakes. TPW operates the Texas State Railroad between Rusk and Palestine, Texas. They have two cars equipped with L type brakes and the rest have UC type brakes. Section 232.17(b)(2) requires that brake equipment on passenger cars must be clean, repaired, lubricated and tested as often as necessary to maintain it in a safe and suitable condition for service but not less frequently than as required in Standard S-045 in the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices of the Association of American

Railroads. Standard S-045, A-III-256, Section 2.1.2, requires a COT&S every 15 months for this brake equipment. TPW has concluded that a car that runs on a passenger railroad using a 15 month cycle would be legal for 10,800 hours. TPW has calculated that if the equipment is in service only 60 percent of the 15 month cycle, then only 6,480 hours would be used. TPW claims that all of their annual runs, including specials and school runs, only total 1,100 hours a year. Therefore, TPW would like to extend the COT&S time period to 48 months, which would be less than 4,400 hours of actual service time.

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 identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2000-7270) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Washington, DC. 20590-0001. Communications received within 45 days of the date 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.-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 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 October 18, 2000.

**Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From the Requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 236

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 235 and 49 U.S.C. App. 26, the following railroads have petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR part 236 as detailed below.

*Docket No.* FRA-2000-7634.

*Applicant:* Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway, Mr. William G. Peterson, Director Signal Engineering, 4515 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66106.

Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) seeks conditional relief from the requirements of Title 49 CFR, part 236, § 236.102(b) of the Rules, Standards, and Instructions, for the entire BNSF system, to the extent that those searchlight signal mechanisms, that have circuitry designed to automatically detect a sticking mechanism and automatically protect for the safety of train movements, not be required to be inspected and the mechanical movement of the mechanism observed operating to all positions, at least once every six months.

Applicants' justification for relief: Stuck mechanism circuits used in Vital Harmon Logic Controllers (VHLC), Wayside Interface Units (WIU), Microprocessor based coded track and control equipment, and relay based stuck mechanism circuits, continuously monitor searchlight mechanisms.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made and contain a concise statement of the interest of the Protester in the proceeding. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

All communications concerning this proceeding should be identified by the docket number and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as