

Alternative 6: Transportation Systems Management/Transportation Demand Management. These basic alternatives may have additional design variations at specific locations in response to social, economic and environmental impacts of extraordinary magnitude, which may be identified during upcoming studies and analysis. **Note:** As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), all other reasonable alternatives will be considered. These alternatives may be refined, combined with various different alternative elements, or be removed from further consideration, as more analysis is conducted on the project alternatives.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments are being sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. An agency scoping meeting will be held on January 16, 2002, at 3 pm, at the Veterans Administration 11301 Wilshire Boulevard. In addition, initial scoping meetings, for the general public, will be held on January 16, 2002, at the Veterans Administration 11301 Wilshire Boulevard, from 6 pm to 8 pm, and on January 17, 2002, at the Radisson Hotel 15433 Ventura Blvd, Sherman Oaks, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Additional public notice will be given of the time and place of these meetings.

Public meetings will be held after the draft EIS is completed. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the formal public hearing(s).

To ensure that the full range of issues related to the proposed routes are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning, and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.

Issued on: December 27, 2001.

Cesar E. Perez,

Senior Transportation Engineer, Program Delivery Team-South, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 02-41 Filed 1-4-02; 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 with certain requirements of its safety standards. 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 argument in favor of relief.

Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad, Inc.

[Docket Number FRA-1999-5183]

The Durbin & Greenbrier Valley Railroad, Inc. (DGVR) seeks a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Safety Glazing Standards, 49 CFR 223.11, safety glazing requirements for existing locomotives.

DGVR stated that it has a locomotive (BL-2) which was built in 1948. The locomotive is on loan from the West Virginia State Rail Authority. This locomotive is used sporadically on track leased by DGVR's West Virginia Central Division.

DGVR requests the waiver based on the following three reasons: (1) The locomotive will be operated one to six excursions per week along 28 miles of rural and wildness track. There is no history of vandalism along this track. Most of this track passes through remote areas. Speed along the entire track is restricted under yard limit rules to no more than 15 miles per hour. There is only one overpass over the track and the overpass is a protected flood gate overpass which is continually patrolled. (2) The locomotive is a rare 1948 vintage BL-2 with the original glazing intact. Only a few of these types of engines were produced. Altering glazing on this old locomotive would change its appearance and would detract from its historic value and appeal. (3) This locomotive was originally built strictly for branch line service and it will be used exclusively in this manner.

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 1999-5183) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. 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 the above facility. 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 December 17, 2001.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 02-308 Filed 1-4-02; 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 with certain requirements of its safety standards. 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 favor of relief.

Farmrail System, Incorporated

[Docket Number FRA-2001-9998]

The Farmrail System owns and operates three passenger coaches which were built in 1954-56. These coaches are not used in regular service, but only on a limited seasonal basis primarily in conjunction with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department's resort and conference center located at Quartz Mountain State Park. The cars operate on trackage owned by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for which Farmrail acts as lessee-operator. The excursion trains operate from a station near the entrance to Quartz Mountain State Park and run

northward around Lake Lugert through a sparsely populated area to Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, and back. Farmrail requests relief from the requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 223.15 *Requirements for existing passenger cars* due to the infrequent use of the cars, the planned usage for excursion service, and the cost of installing compliant glazing. The cars are former VIA Rail Canada equipment, and have a double-pane combination of 1/4-inch thick safety glass inside and plate glass outside. This glazing system remains the standard in Canada for passenger equipment, and the petitioner believes that the operation of these cars, as equipped, would not pose a safety hazard to passengers or employees.

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-2001-9998) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room P1-401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Communications received within 30 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 above facility. 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 January 2, 2002.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 02-312 Filed 1-4-02; 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 with certain requirements of its safety standards. 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 favor of relief.

Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCS)

[Docket Number FRA-2001-9746]

The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCS) seeks a permanent waiver of compliance with the Railroad Safety Appliance Standards, 49 CFR part 231.27(b)(3) which states that the location of the end platform shall be "One (1) centered on each end of car between inner ends of handholds not more than eight (8) inches above top of center sill." KCS has a series of 138 box cars, numbered KCS 125550 through KCS 125688, that were rebuilt in 1999. During the rebuild the end platforms were added to both ends of each car with approximately one inch off the center of the car. KCS's petition did not provide the specific "eccentricity" of the end platforms as measured from the center between inner ends of handholds. KCS believes this defect creates no unsafe conditions.

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-2001-9746) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room P1-401, 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 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. 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 January 2, 2002.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 02-311 Filed 1-4-02; 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 with certain requirements of its safety standards. 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 favor of relief.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

[Docket Number FRA-2000-8044]

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) seeks to resubmit a petition for reconsideration of a temporary waiver of compliance with the Railroad Safety Appliance Standards, 49 CFR 231.12(c)(4), which requires passenger car end handholds be securely fastened with bolts or rivets. MBTA states that the end handholds on their Bombardier and Kawasaki fleets of passenger coaches, as currently configured, are fastened with bolts to a slotted block that is welded to the end sill during the manufacturing process.

MBTA states that there are 146 Bombardier coaches in service since 1987-90 with no recorded failures, accidents, or injuries attributable to either the end handhold or the welded mounted blocks. There are 75 Kawasaki coaches that have been in service since 1990-91 and 17 in service since 1998 with no reported injuries attributable to the handhold or mounting blocks used to secure them.

MBTA reports having performed a recent inspection of both fleets, with no defects in the welds securing the