

south along I-205 to the Clackamas Town Center area and, in the north, includes a section continuing into downtown Portland using the Portland Mall Alignment. There is a terminus option at SW Main Street and design option of using Island Stations with this alternative.

#### IV. Probable Effects

FTA, FHWA, Metro and TriMet will evaluate all significant transportation, environmental, social and economic impacts of the alternatives. Primary issues include: support of state, regional and local land use and transportation plans and policies, cost effective expansion of the transit system, preservation of capacity enhancement options of I-205, neighborhood impacts and environmental sensitivity. The impacts will be evaluated for both the construction period and for the long-term period of operation. Measures to mitigate any significant impact will be developed.

Issued on: March 31, 2003.

#### Richard Krochalis,

*Regional Administrator, Region X, Federal Transit Administration.*

#### Elton Chang,

*Environmental Engineer, Oregon Division, Federal Highway Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-03-14448: Notice 3]

#### Pipeline Safety: Qualification of Pipeline Personnel

**AGENCY:** Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) will conduct a public meeting to discuss progress in implementing the operator qualification (OQ) rule for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. OPS will continue to develop the protocols and supplementary guidance materials, and provide continued opportunities for public comment. A record of previous public meetings on Qualification of Pipeline Personnel that were held in San Antonio, TX; Houston, TX; and Phoenix, AZ, are available in this docket (RSPA-03-14448).

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2003, beginning at 8:30 a.m., ending at 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the Double Tree Hotel Atlanta-Buckhead, 3342 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30326 (telephone: 404/231-1234, fax: 404/231-5236, Web: <http://www.doubletreebuckhead.com>). The deadline for making a hotel reservation is April 11, 2003, (refer to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) (Operation Qualification Group block for government rates).

This meeting is free and open to the public. You may register electronically for this meeting at: <http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/meetings>. The program will continue to address the 13 issues generated by the first public meeting held in January 2003, and will be open for technical input. Discussion will include protocols and explanation of changes, supplementary guidance, definitions of terms, and development of a national consensus standard. Persons wishing to make a presentation or statement at the meeting should notify Janice Morgan, (202) 366-2392, no later than April 14, 2003.

Although we encourage persons wishing to comment on operator qualification and inspection protocols to participate in the public meeting, written comments will be accepted. You may submit written comments on operator qualification and inspection issues by mail or delivery to the Dockets Facility, DOT, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays. You should submit the original and one copy. Anyone who wants confirmation of receipt of their comments must include a stamped, self-addressed postcard. You may also submit comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log on to the Internet Web address at <http://dms.dot.gov> and select "Help" for instructions on electronic filing of comments. All written comments should identify the Docket Number RSPA-03-14448; Notice 3.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comments (or signing the comments, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (volume 65, number 70; pages 9477-78), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** You may contact Richard Sanders at (405) 954-7214 or (405) 954-7219, regarding the agenda of this public meeting. General information about OPS programs may be obtained by accessing OPS's Internet home page at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

*Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities:* For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance, contact Janice Morgan at (202) 366-2392.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The operator qualification rule at 49 CFR 192.801 (for gas pipelines) and at 49 CFR 195.501 (for hazardous liquid pipelines) requires every pipeline operator to have and follow a written qualification program that includes provisions to identify covered tasks and to ensure that all persons performing these tasks are qualified. By October 28, 2002, all gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators should have completed the qualification of all individuals performing covered tasks on pipeline facilities.

On April 23, 2003, OPS will conduct a public meeting to continue discussions on the progress in implementing the operator qualification rule for gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. The meeting will focus on development of the 13 OQ issues identified at previous public meetings on February 25, 2003, in Houston, TX, and March 25, 2003, in Mesa, AZ, and are as follows:

1. Scope of Operator Qualification.
2. Evaluation of Knowledge, Skills, and Physical Ability.
3. Re-evaluation Intervals.
4. Maintenance versus New Construction.
5. Treatment of Emergency Response.
6. Additional Covered Tasks.
7. Extent of Documentation.
8. Abnormal Operating Conditions.
9. Treatment of Training.
10. Criteria for Small Operators.
11. Direction of Observation of Non-qualified People.
12. Noteworthy Practices.
13. Persons Contributing to an Incident or Accident.

All persons attending the meeting will have an opportunity to comment on operator qualification compliance issues and to question the expert panel on the new operator qualification compliance protocols.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 7, 2003.

#### Stacey L. Gerard,

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

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