

the State and local level, respectively are: Mr. Claiborne Barnwell, Environmental/Location Division Engineer, Mississippi Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1850, Jackson, MS, 39215-1850, telephone: (601) 359-7920; and Mr. Ricky Lee, District 6 Engineer, Mississippi Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 551, Hattiesburg, MS, 39403-0551, telephone (601) 544-6511.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the relocation study through the six counties of the Mississippi Gulf Coast—Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, Greene, Stone, and Pearl River counties.

The relocated CSX Railroad will be situated within the six Mississippi coastal counties noted above. The project has logical termini at both the eastern and western termini of the State of Mississippi where the connection will occur with the CSX railroad into the states of Alabama and Louisiana. The purpose of the CSX Study is three-fold: Identify the best feasible corridor for relocation of the CSX Railroad in Mississippi; obtain the necessary environmental clearances; and demonstrate the applicability of remote sensing technologies to environmental analysis for transportation planning projects and decision making. Of paramount importance to this effort is the public participation process. The relocated CSX Railroad will enter Mississippi at the eastern terminus in Jackson County and extend generally in a western alignment through Harrison County into Jackson County exiting the state at the western terminus into Louisiana. Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action and (2) various build alternatives.

The FHWA and MDOT are seeking input as a part of the scoping process to assist in determining and clarifying issues relative to this project. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments have been 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. A formal scoping meeting with Federal, State, and local agencies, and other interested parties has been held.

Coordination will be continued with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American tribes and private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known

to have interest in this proposal. Numerous public involvement meetings will be held, a newsletter will be developed, and a Web site will be created to keep the public informed. A local project office will be opened in Gulfport, Mississippi. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the official public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action 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.

Andrew H. Hughes,

Division Administrator, Jackson, Mississippi.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)/Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG)

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Synopsis of April 3, 2003 meeting with VISA participants.

The VISA program requires that a notice of the time, place, and nature of each JPAG meeting be published in the **Federal Register**. The program also requires that a list of VISA participants be periodically published in the **Federal Register**. The full text of the VISA program, including these requirements, is published in 68 FR 8800-8808, dated February 25, 2003.

On April 3, 2003, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) co-hosted a meeting of the VISA JPAG at Ft. Eustis, Virginia.

Meeting attendance was by invitation only, due to the nature of the information discussed and the need for a government-issued security clearance. Of the 52 U.S.-flag carrier corporate participants enrolled in the VISA program at the time of the meeting, 19 companies participated in the meeting. In addition, representatives from the Maritime Administration (MARAD), the Department of Defense, and maritime labor attended the meeting.

MG Ann E. Dunwoody opened the meeting with a welcome to all attendees. She was followed by LtGen

Gary Hughey, the USTRANSCOM Deputy Commander, and Captain William G. Schubert, Maritime Administrator, who provided participants with an overview of the meeting. The JPAG meeting included updates on: (1) Current operations; (2) sustainment operations; (3) redeployment operations; and (4) CBR-D training.

As of April 1, 2003, the following commercial U.S.-flag vessel operators were enrolled in the VISA program with MARAD: America Cargo Transport, Inc.; American Automar, Inc.; American International Car Carrier, Inc.; American President Lines, Ltd.; American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC; American Ship Management, L.L.C.; Bay Towing Corporation; Beyel Brothers Inc.; Central Gulf Lines, Inc.; Coastal Transportation, Inc.; Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC; Crowley Liner Services, Inc.; Crowley Marine Services, Inc.; Delta Towing; E-Ships, Inc.; Farrell Lines Incorporated; First American Bulk Carrier Corp.; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-I, LLC; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-II, LLC; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-III, LLC; Horizon Lines, LLC, Foss Maritime Company; Liberty Shipping Group Limited Partnership; Lockwood Brothers, Inc.; Lykes Lines Limited, LLC; Lynden Incorporated; Maersk Line, Limited; Matson Navigation Company, Inc.; Maybank Navigation Company, LLC; McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., Inc.; Moby Marine Corporation; Odyssea Shipping Line LLC; OSG Car Carriers, Inc.; Patriot Shipping, L.L.C.; RR & VO L.L.C.; Resolve Towing & Salvage, Inc.; Samson Tug & Barge Company, Inc.; Sea Star Line, LLC; SeaTac Marine Services, LLC; Sealift Inc.; Signet Maritime Corporation; STEA Corporation; Superior Marine Services, Inc.; TECO Ocean Shipping; Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc.; Trailer Bridge, Inc.; TransAtlantic Lines LLC; Troika International, Ltd.; U.S. Ship Management, Inc.; Van Ommeren Shipping (USA) LLC; Waterman Steamship Corporation; and Weeks Marine, Inc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Taylor E. Jones II, Director, Office of Sealift Support, (202) 366-2323.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: April 18, 2003.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

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