

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Barry Brayer, Manager, Executive Resource Staff, Western Pacific Region, Federal Aviation Administration, 15000 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250, telephone: (310) 725-3800, or Barry.Brayer@faa.gov, or Howie Thompson, National Park Service, Natural Sounds Program, 12795 W. Alameda Parkway, Denver, CO 80225, telephone: (303) 969-2461, or Howie_Thompson@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000, enacted on April 5, 2000, as Public Law 106-181 (Pub. L. 106-181), required the establishment of a National Parks Overflights Advisory Group within 1 year after its enactment. The NPOAG was to be a balanced group representative of general aviation, commercial air tour operations, environmental concerns, and Indian tribes. The duties of the NPOAG included providing advice, information, and recommendations to the Director, NPS, and to the Administrator, FAA, on the implementation of Public Law 106-181, on quiet aircraft technology, on other measures that might accommodate interests to visitors to national parks, and, at the request of the Director and Administrator, on safety, environmental, and other issues related to commercial air tour operations over national parks or tribal lands.

On March 12, 2001, the FAA and NPS announced the establishment of the NPOAG (48 FR 14429). Current members of the NPOAG are Heidi Williams (general aviation), David Kennedy, Richard Larew, and Alan Stephens (commercial air tour operations), Chip Dennerlein, Charles Maynard, Steve Bosak, and Susan Gunn (environmental interests), and Germaine White and Richard Deertrack (Indian tribes).

The first meeting of the advisory group was held August 28-29, 2001, in Las Vegas, Nevada; the second meeting was held October 4-5, 2002, in Tusayan, Arizona.

Agenda for the October 20, 2003 Meeting

The NPOAG will review the status of the AMTP process to date, the data acquisition and analysis process (Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Zion studies), receive an update on quiet technology, and discuss the status of interim operating authority for air tour operators. A final agenda will be available the day of the meeting.

Attendance at the Meeting

Although this is not a public meeting, interested persons may attend. Because seating is limited, if you plan to attend, please contact one of the persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** so that meeting space may accommodate your attendance.

Record of the Meeting

If you cannot attend the meeting, a summary record of the meeting will be made available by the Office of Rulemaking (ARM), 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591. Contact is Linda Williams, (202) 267-9685, or linda.l.williams@faa.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 26, 2003.

John M. Allen,

Acting Director, Flight Standards Service.

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BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration**

Notice of Intent To Rule on Application 03-04-C-00-PIH To Impose and Use the Revenue From a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) at Pocatello Regional Airport, Submitted by the City of Pocatello, Pocatello Regional Airport, Pocatello, ID

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to rule on application.

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose and use PFC revenue at Pocatello Regional Airport under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 40117 and part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 158).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before November 3, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this application may be mailed or delivered in triplicate to the FAA at the following address: Mr. J. Wade Bryant, Manager; Seattle Airports District Office, SEA-ADO; Federal Aviation Administration; 1601 Lind Avenue SW, Suite 250, Renton, Washington 98055-4056.

In addition, one copy of any comments submitted to the FAA must be mailed or delivered to Mr. Len Nelson, Airport Manager, at the following address: PO Box 4169, Pocatello, ID 83205.

Air Carriers and foreign air carriers may submit copies of written comments previously provided to Pocatello

Regional Airport, under § 158.23 of part 158.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Suzanne Lee-Pang, (425) 227-2654, Seattle Airports District Office, SEA-ADO; Federal Aviation Administration; 1601 Lind Avenue SW, Suite 250, Renton, Washington 98055-4056. The application may be reviewed in person at this same location.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application 03-04-C-00-PIH to impose and use PFC revenue at Pocatello Regional Airport, under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 40117, and part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 158).

On September 23, 2003, the FAA determined that the application to impose and use the revenue from a PFC submitted by City of Pocatello, Pocatello Regional Airport, Pocatello, Idaho was substantially complete within the requirements of § 158.25 of part 158. The FAA will approve or disapprove the application, in whole or in part, no later than December 23, 2003.

The following is a brief overview of the application.

Level of the proposed PFC: \$4.50.

Proposed charge effective date: January 1, 2005.

Proposed charge expiration date: March 1, 2008.

Total requested for approval: \$456,500 (\$306,500 for use).

Brief description of proposed projects:

Impose and Use Projects: Renovation of Taxiway A and Connectors, Parallel Taxiway for Runway 3/21, Lighting System; Pavement Condition (PCI) Survey Update and Wildlife Hazard Study; Taxiway F, D, and B Widening and Hold Apron for Runway End 3; Snow Removal Equipment Procurement—Plow; Security Enhancement; Wildlife Fencing; Construct New Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Building.

Impose Only Project: Construction of Midfield Taxiway E.

Alternate Project: Reconstruction of Terminal Building Auto Parking Lots.

Class or classes of air carriers which the public agency has requested not be required to collect PFC's: non-scheduled air taxi/commercial operators, utilizing aircraft having seating capacity of less than 20 passengers.

Any person may inspect the application in person at the FAA office listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** and at the FAA Regional Airports Office located at: Federal Aviation Administration, Northwest Mountain Region, Airports Division, ANM-600, 1601 Lind Avenue

SW., Suite 315, Renton, WA 98055-4056.

In addition, any person may, upon request, inspect the application, notice and other documents germane to the application in person at the Pocatello Regional Airport.

Issued in Renton, Washington on September 23, 2003.

David A. Field,

Manager, Planning, Programming and Capacity Branch, Northwest Mountain Region.

[FR Doc. 03-25050 Filed 10-2-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket MARAD-2003-16248]

Notice of Request To Transfer Maritime Security Program Operating Agreements MA/MSP-29 Through MA/MSP-43 to Maersk Line, Limited

By letter dated September 18, 2003 (which incorporates earlier correspondence of July 10, 2003), Maersk Line, Limited (Maersk) has requested approval from the Maritime Administration (MARAD) to transfer Maritime Security Program (MSP) Operating Agreements Nos. MA/MSP-29 through 43 (Agreements) from U.S. Ship Management, Inc. (USSM) to itself. The MSP was established by the Maritime Security Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-239, and is contained in sections 651 through 656 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, 46 App. U.S.C. 1187-1187e. The MSP serves to maintain an active, privately owned, U.S.-flag and U.S. citizen crewed liner fleet in international trade. At present, MSP provides operating payments to 47 vessels, under single-vessel MSP Operating Agreements.

The vessels at issue here, or their predecessors, were originally operated by Sea-Land Service, Inc. (Sea-Land) as the international liner division of Sea-Land. The transportation assets of the international liner division, other than the MSP Agreements or title to the vessels, were sold to Maersk in 1999. Maersk is a company organized in the United States, but is owned by the A.P. Moller Group, a Danish consortium.

At the time of the sale to Maersk, Sea-Land proposed to transfer the MSP Agreements to USSM, a newly-created U.S. citizen company. On December 8, 1999, the Maritime Administrator authorized transfer of the MSP Agreements from Sea-Land to USSM. In order to maintain the U.S. citizen status of the vessels for MSP purposes, titles

to the vessels covered by the Agreements were either transferred to trusts qualified under section 1136(c) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996, or required to remain in existing U.S. citizen trusts, as applicable. A vessel owned by a qualified section 1136(c) trust and bareboat chartered to a U.S. citizen is deemed to be owned and operated by a U.S. citizen for MSP purposes, notwithstanding foreign beneficial ownership of the trust. Sea-Land assigned the bareboat charters of all 15 vessels to USSM, the MSP contract holder, which, in turn, time chartered the 15 vessels to Maersk, through September 30, 2005, when the current MSP expires.

Maersk claims a right of election under Article 2(b)(vi) of the time charters to become the MSP contractor for the 15 vessels, at any time during the term of the time charters, subject to the qualification that the arrangement is "permitted under applicable laws and regulations and the terms of the Operating Agreement." On November 7, 2002, Maersk requested that MARAD confirm Maersk's eligibility to become the contractor for the vessels as provided in the time charters.

An opinion by MARAD's Chief Counsel, Robert B. Ostrom, issued on April 29, 2003, concluded that, "Maersk qualifies as an eligible transferee of the MSP Agreements from USSM." That opinion stated that it was limited solely to the question of Maersk's eligibility as a transferee under applicable statutes and regulations, "and in no way addresses whether MARAD would grant approval for such a transfer if an application were filed." In addition, that opinion did not address whether the proposed vessel operation and ownership arrangements would be acceptable.

On April 30, 2003, Maersk delivered to USSM a Notice of Election. In accordance with the Notice of Election, USSM was required to respond within five business days or be declared in default of the time charters. On May 9, 2003 Maersk delivered to USSM a Notice of Default, which then triggered a 60 day period for USSM to remedy said default. By letter dated July 3, 2003 USSM rejected Maersk's Notice of Default. By letter dated July 9, 2003, Maersk advised USSM that it had declared USSM in default of the time charters on that date and is unilaterally seeking to act for USSM with regard to transfer of the Agreements. Maersk asserts that it has the right to submit the subject transfer application on behalf of, or in place of, USSM.

USSM filed a complaint in U.S. District Court for the District of

Columbia, styled *U.S. Ship Management, Inc. v. U.S. Maritime Administration*, No. 1:03-cv-00951-RJL (filed April 29, 2003), contesting the legality of MARAD's legal opinion. That case is ongoing at this time. USSM also vigorously opposes Maersk's application. USSM further asserts that Maersk cannot act as attorney-in-fact, because the time charters giving rise to the attorney-in-fact powers contain several conditions which have not been satisfied. One of those conditions, USSM avers, is that the MSP Agreement transfer be approved by MARAD, which has not occurred.

A copy of Maersk's request, and other documents pertinent to this request, will be available for inspection at the Department of Transportation (DOT) Dockets Facility and on the DOT Web site (address information follows). Any person, firm or corporation having an interest in this matter, and who desires to submit comments concerning it, may file such comments as follows. You should mention the docket number that appears at the top of this notice. Written comments should be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, Nassif Building, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be filed electronically via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit/>. You may call Docket Management at (202) 366-9324. You may visit the docket room to inspect and copy comments at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Comments must be received by the close of business October 24, 2003.

This notice is published as a matter of discretion. Section 652(j) of the Act, as implemented by MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR 295.20(i), permits the transfer of an MSP Operating Agreement by the MSP contractor to a qualified transferee unless MARAD disapproves the transfer within 90 days of receiving a completed application. Due to the unusual nature of this application, wherein the MSP contractor has not itself submitted an application and in fact opposes the submission of an application, no decision has been made on whether MARAD accepts the submission as an application properly submitted under § 295.20(i). Accordingly, no transfer of the MSP Operating Agreements may be consummated unless and until expressly approved by MARAD. Further, MARAD will not permit a transfer of the Agreements unless and until satisfied that the vessels associated